START

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LONDON

REEL K3B

War Diaries

1-1-41 ✱ 31-1-41

Contents from reel K-2B

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.1.1941.
Tuesday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN	Supplying oil fuel to Italian S/M at Las Palmas. See North Atlantic.
ITHAKA	Left Batoum for Russian port (V.C. Varna 1725/20)
DRESDEN BABITONGA	SANTOS reports. DRESDEN has taken on board 86 drums of oil type unknown and 30 cases of lubricating oil. BABITONGA has loaded 75 drums of oil type unknown ends. (N.S.O. (1) Montevideo 2134/2/21)
TARONGA	See Enemy Intelligence

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

MAYA	Arrived from Batoum tanker MAYA with cargo 5,000 tons of gas oil. (V.C. Varna 1748/21)
ADRIA	See East Indies.
FRANCESCA MADRE TRIPOLITANIA G.GHIRARDI	Arrived from Batoum FRANCESCA MADRE and TRIPOLITANIA with cargoes gas oil departure IBOT GUISEPPINA GHIRARDI for Constantza (V.C. Varna 1725/20)
NUMIDIA	Susak sailed 21/1 NUMIDIA in ballast for Trieste. (Susak 2000/21)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

JEAN L.D.	Vichy French ship JEAN L.D. is being sent to Capetown under armed guard. Bound (? Barcelona) to Madagascar. Cargo small quantity of (? essences) and wine. (S.O. Force K., 1014Z/21) Amended to Simonstown, not Capetown. (see 22/1)
CAPTAL	Weight of total cargo (Conband Cib. 1050/21)

MOST SECRET

21.1.1941
Tuesday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

BRASK
(Torpedoed 15/1)

I D Form S A 1. SS BRASK. 4079 tons Norwegian (Ex O.B. 272- D.S. 505)
3. 2050/15 52° 45' N., 23° 59' W.
4. At 2048 on the port beam parallel course.
7. Sunk
8. 12 crew lost including master.
9. 2nd Officer claims it is BARGARICO class (Italian)
10. Torpedoed. (N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1035/21)

NEMEA
(Torpedoed 15/1)

1. NEMEA (Greek)
3. 1745/15 52° 33' N., 24° 13' W.
4. Starboard bow converging.
5. Starboard beam 1810 approx. unknown.
6. Half submerged
7. Damaged by torpedo
8. Five left behind in ship. Names.
9. Large presume ENRICO TAZZOLI class.
10 Torpedo.
(N.C.S.O. Londonderry 1535/21)

THELMA
(Torpedoed 20/1)

Your 1303/20. Nothing found am rejoining (LA MALOUINE 1601/21 to C. in C., W.A.)

EMPIRE SCOUT

This was the unknown ship gunned 16/1 in S.W. Approaches. (D.S. 504)

Submarines Reported

1800/20

By D/F position probable German U-Boat at 1800/20 was 230 miles West of Cape Finisterre. (Capt. S. 8 0936/21 to OLYMPUS PANDORA)

0518

D/F bearings at 0518/21 G.M.T. indicate that U-Boat is operating in your vicinity (D.D.I.C. 1054/21 to AUSTRALIA)

1900/20

Estimate one German U-Boat near 043° N. 014° 30' W., at 1906/20 probably homeward bound. (F.O.(S) 1433/21 to S/M's Area B)

/2230.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

21.1.1941
Tuesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

2230 — At 2230 D/F indicated an Italian U-Boat in approx. 048° N., 010° to 011° W. inward bound. (F.O. (S) 2306/21 to S/M's area B)

0700/20 — My 0902/20 two amber lights type B were sighted 90 minutes and 60 minutes before encountering a U-Boat on surface at 0700 G.M.T./20. (Capt. D. 6 2315/21)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

German One to N.W. of Cape Verde Is.
1 near 43° N., 14° 30' W., at 1906/20 probably outward bound.
1 near 50° N., 9° W at 1949/20 outward bound.
Probably two near 52° N., 18° W
1 near 60° N., 25° W at 1158/20
1 was in 59° 40' N., 18° W at 0800/20
1 near 59° N., 19° W., at 0219/21
1 may be near 61° N., 12° W.
3 more in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic whereabouts unknown.

Italian 1 in Las Palmas probably from Freetown area.
1 off S.W. Portugal outward bound
5 or 6 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown but probably to south and well to S.W. of Rockall. (D.D.I.C. 1250/21)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Sweep for Raider. C.S.2 in ARETHUSA with NIGERIA returned to Scapa this evening.

Enemy unit. D/F at 1724 indicated an unidentified enemy unit, probably a homeward bound surface ship, in an area 25 miles from 57° 35' N. 1° 0' E.

Torpedo craft off Gravelines. There were indications that torpedo craft were off Gravelines at 1054.
Four aircraft were despatched to attack them, but failed to sight any enemy vessels.

Gale Damage. Between 1200/21 and 1800/22, 11 of H.M. ships and 3 merchant vessels were damaged by a gale at Greenock.

U-Boat campaign. S.S. CARLTON was sunk in the Atlantic 20/1; four of the crew landed at an east Canadian port.

British Air Activity.

Bad weather caused Coastal Command patrols to be curtailed again to-day.
Two patrols were, however, carried out along the coast of Norway.
All operations by Bomber Command last night were cancelled, and little was effected today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Unsuccessful attacks were made today on VORTIGERN and Convoy F.S.91 off Sheerness and GARTH escorting TORBAY 15 miles East of Harwich.
S.S. KAPETAN STRATIS was attacked in the N.W. Approaches.

There was no activity by enemy aircraft over this country last night.

Minings.

Minelaying between 1800 and 2300 by enemy aircraft is suspected in the Bristol Channel and Milford Haven area.

Tug ST. CYRUS was mined and sunk (apparently yesterday) and LL trawler LUDA LADY was sunk today in the Humber area. Five other mines were exploded by sweepers. The Humber is still closed.

S.S. JAMAICA PLANTER was damaged by a mine in the Bristol Channel and was beached in Old Harbour, Barry.
Milford Haven was closed late this evening.

North Atlantic.

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE and 5 destroyers arrived at Gibraltar at 1400 today. ISIS and ENCOUNTER entered harbour, but the other ships were unable to do so on account of S.W. gale.
It is reported that the German S.S. CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN has supplied gas oil fuel to the damaged Italian S/M at Las Palmas.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

South Atlantic.

NEWCASTLE's aircraft (see 15/1)	NEWCASTLE's aircraft, which was released today crashed on landing and sank. The crew were saved.
Attack on whaling ships. (see 19/1)	It is thought that PELAGOS (whale factory ship) and her catchers have also been captured by the raider.
Raiders, estimated positions.	There are apparently now three enemy units on the South Atlantic Station A was in 25° S. 10° W. at 2017/19 B was in 12° S. 8° W at 2128/20 C was in 2° S. 8° W. at 2156/20 D/F bearings indicate that unit C may have been within 150 miles of 5° 56° W. at 21562/21. C may R.V. with unit B.

Mediterranean.

Operations in Libya.	Tobruk was captured today. A large number of prisoners were taken. The Italian schooner DIEGO was sunk off Tobruk last night. Capt. D.10 and VAMPIRE patrolled of Tobruk; two destroyers from Alexandria are to join them tomorrow. R.A.F. cooperated with the attack on Tobruk, bombing the defences and gun positions and providing protective patrols for the Navy. Derna was bombed last night and today, and Apollonia was bombed today.
Greco-Italian Operations.	R.A.F. today bombed Martiza aerodrome, Rhodes, where German bombers are believed to be located.

East Indies.

A supply depot at Assab was bombed and damaged today by a Blenheim on R.C.

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MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Meeting at Adty. 24/1.

Your 1745/17. Request meeting may be postponed till Sunday or Monday. (C. in C. H.F. 1217/22 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/22. (D.C.1140/22.)
At 2330/22. (D.C.2354/22.)

Invasion Exercise VICTOR.

(D.C. 0142/22. C. in C. Rosyth 1215/22. F.O.I.C. Iceland 1305/22. D.C.1419/22. Duty Met. Officer 1446/22. C. in C.W.A. 1514/22. V.A.Dover 1610/22.C. in C.W.A. 1644/22, 1705/22. C. in C. Portsmouth 1713/22.C. in C.H.F. 1715/22. C. in C.W.A. 1727/22. D.5. 1742/22. C. in C. H.F. 1755/22. Weslanar 1820/22. F.O.I.C. Portland 1845/22. C. in C. Portsmouth 1855/22. C. in C. H.F. 1900/22. D.5.1942/22. C. in C. W.A. 2031/22, 2037/22. D.C.2150/22. C. in C. Rosyth 2154/22. C. in C. Nore 2208/22. C. in C. W.A. 2215/22. C. in C. Nore 2230/22. C. in C. W.A. 2315/22, 2324/22, 2331/22, 2337/22. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2338/22. Weslanar 2345/22.

Roborough R.N.Air Stations. Hatston.

Your 1328/16. Details of Ground Defences. (Roborough 1810/22. to RANAS, RANAS Hatston 1402/22 to Adty.)

Movements.

J.3968.) AURORA.)

My 1732/18 para. 2. and F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1826/20. Force is to sail PM/23. (C. in C.H.F. 1215/22. and 1703/22.) My 1826/20. J.3968 will not be ready to sail till 28/1, passing Bar Light 1200.(F.O.Liverpool 1043/22.)

D.6.

Your 1130/22. Proceed to Port Z.A. with your Force and remain there. (C. in C. H.F. 1404/22 to Capt. D.6.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1539/22.)

3 Trawlers.

/BOREAS.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BOREAS.	My 1706/21. Following revised programme proposed. (F.O.I.C. London 1650/22 to C. in C. Nore.) Approved. (C. in C. Nore 2055/22.)
Force Z.	Sailing, Escort, Route.(Adty 1655/22 to C. in C. W.A,S.A, E.1, F.O.C.N.A.)
ARETHUSA NIGERIA NIZAM.	Arrived Scapa 1805. (A.C.O.S.1853/22.)
EREBUS.	My 2220/21. Correct to read 23/1. (C. in C. Nore 0805/22.) Proceed to Harwich at 1030/23. Route. (C. in C. Nore 2250/22 to EREBUS.)
AGNETE MAERSK.	Your 0108/15, 1928/16, 2035/17, and 1927/21. Noted that ship is now at Dublin. (C. in C.W.A. 1237/22 to Adty.)

Operations.

Operation SPECIMEN.	Your 1203/19. Not intended to fit a second Aerial System in PEGASUS. Reason. (D.S.D. 1147/22 to C. in C. W.A.)
Operation RUBBLE.	My 2233/21. Prospects. (N.A. Stockholm 1545/22 and 1822/22 to Adty.) See Operations Volume.
P.W.3. and P.W.1.	Your 1100/21. Proposals concurred in. Line W.N.W. from I.S. Buoy considered desirable. (A.C.H.S.H.1641/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

TORBAY. Sailed Harwich 0911/22 escorted by GARTH. E.T.A. Dundee 1700/23 (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0917/22.)

SEALION. My 1333/19 and 1957/21. Intend SEALION to R/V with D.20. at 20.R.Buoy at 1000/24 for exercise. (S.C.1011/22 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

CACHALOT. Sailed, escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE, as by S.2's 1019/18 and 1417/20. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1040/22.) You may meet 4 Tribal Destroyers in North Minch. Destination unknown. (S.2.2202/22 to CACHALOT.)

H.50. Sailed with VIRGINIA. E.T.A. Cumbrae Light 0830/23. (N.O.I.C. Holyhead 1220/22).

Positions. For 24 hours after 0800/23. (F.O.S. 1734/22.)

UNDAUNTED
MINERVE. Following movements may affect you. (S.9. 2203/22.)

British Air Activity.

R/C's of Trieux and Quimper River. (A) CC/G1/22/1.(C) Reconnaissances of Trieux position 48° 50' N, 03° 03' W. and Quimper River position 47° 52' N. 04° 07' W. are to be flown periodically when cloud cover permits with the object of detecting the presence of submarines. (H.Q.C.C. 0940/22 to Adty.)

Patrols. FAIR cancelled today. STAND is being flown. (C. in C. Rosyth 1014/22.)

One Stirling aircraft leaving St. Abbs Head 1235 proceeding coast of Wrabness to The Wash. E.T.A. 1415. Then inland. (C. in C. Rosyth 1206/22.)

Suspected)
Sabotage.) Your 1349/21. Reply. (St. Merryn 1059/22 to RANAS.)

/Thames.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. Contd.

Thames Estuary Balloon Barrage.

Minelaying by aircraft in the Thames Estuary has led to the reduction of the Thames balloon barrage to such a degree that it no longer gives protection to the Southend convoy anchorage. As the balloon barrage is thought to be of value as a deterrent to low bombing attacks on ships in the convoy anchorage it is desired to retain sea borne balloons in the estuary if possible. A meeting will be held to discuss whether new balloon sites can be chosen which will give a measure of protection to the convoy anchorage and where balloon servicing craft can proceed to and from their duties with the least risk of damage by mines. Request you or your representatives will attend at Admiralty House, Chatham at 1100/27. (C. in C. Nore 1102/22 to Cdr. Sheerness etc.)

Lorient.

A.P.781/22/1. 217 Sqdn. to attack tonight S/M's in Naval Dockyard at Lorient.

C. in C. Rosyth's 1213/20.

Recognition of Escorting A/C on approaching Convoys.

a. This would prevent air escort in narrow waters such as the North Channel.
b. Would be extremely difficult to carry out in practice, would involve a large amount of extra signalling, and would endanger the aircraft if signals were not received in time. It is pointed out that the originator of a signal cannot be sure that signals will be received in time.
c. Is provided for in existing regulations. (C. in C. W.A. 1313/22 to Adty.)

Hatston.

Air Ministry have agreed to release 804 Squadron from operating under Fighter Command as from midnight 31st January. Hurricane Squadron will relieve it, 804 will then transfer to Yeovilton. (5th S.L. 1642/22 to C. in C. H.F.)

/British.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

British A/C. shot down.

N.C.I.C. Lowestoft states that at 1226 today an aircraft came in from seawards over Lowestoft at 700 to 1000 feet. Ships opened fire and A/C was hit in port engine and came down in flames near Oulton. No recognition signals fired and A/C came out of sun on course 285°. Blenheim type but no roundels seen on wings or body. Was probably hit by point fire from QUEEN EMPRESS. A/C burnt out. Three bodies identified as R.A.F. Personnel. Further enquiry will be held. (C. in C. Nore 1956/22 to Adty.)

OPS 626 22/1. Blenheim 139 Squadron, returning from Operational mission crossed coast Lowestoft 1226/22 on straight course and recognised as Blenheim by local Constabulary. After passing over town, Naval guns opened fire and aircraft hit and crashed with loss of all crew. Action by Naval guns in direct contravention of S.D. 158 (1) appendix "A" paragraph 3 (3). Regret that I must press for a searching enquiry so that the responsibility for this act may be established, and in order that Naval A.A. fire may be brought under a proper system of control. This is the fifth occasion since last October in which my aircraft have been engaged by A.A. fire at Lowestoft alone and illustrated the irresponsible manner in which fire is opened on friendly aircraft. (C. in C. Bomber Cd. 2340/22. to Air Ministry.)

PORT HUNTER. (British, 8826 Tons.) Outward for Curacoa. Expects pass boom 2200/23. Route. Request Air Protection. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1215/22 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Zones for Attacks between A/C and Warships. Adty. 1201/12. I am averse to the revised Zones for following reasons. Suggest following Zones. Remarks. (C. in C. H.F. 2343/22. to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

VORTIGERN. Convoy F.S.91.	Attacked by Dornier 17. Two Bombs. No damage. (VORTIGERN 0950/22.).
GARTH) TORBAY)	Enemy bombing in 51° 56' N. 1° 39' E. (GARTH 1038/22.) Fighter being sent to assist (Nore W/T. 1105/22.) One Dornier 330° 3 miles. Position 52° 29' N. 2° 5' E. (GARTH 1440/22.)
KAPETAN STRATIS.	(Greek, 3574 tons) Attacked by A/C at 1028. G.M.T. in 54° 34' N. 12° 8' W. Require help. (Valentia Radio 1100/22.) Proceed to assist (C. in C. W.A. 1245/22 to ARBUTUS.)
Convoy RADIO.	One A/C shadowing in 53° 44' N. 0° 36' E. (EGRET 1200/22.)
Dover.	At 1148/22. U.P. Battery fired 2 salvoes at a Junkers 88 flying South-Eastward over. A/C altered course. (V.A.Dover 1449/22.)
Lowestoft.	Unidentified A/C fired 3 bursts of M.G. fire apparently at Lighthouse at about 2240. Some bullets fell inside Depot. No damage. (Patrols, Lowestoft 2340/22.)

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Entry to Watchet Harbour.

My 1451/21. Amend second position to read 225 degrees West Culver Buoy 0.5. (H.O.I.C. Cardiff 1028/22.)

Gardening for tonight.

(H.Q.C.C. 1206/22.)

Humber. ST. CYRUS sunk.

Tug ST. CYRUS mined and sunk in Gateway. (F.O. Humber 1212/22.)

Anticipated the earliest time the Humber can be opened is 1200/23. Ship when anchoring should pass to the Northward of Gate Vessel Convoy anchorage northern and southern anchorages are not to be used until further orders. (F.O. Humber 1455/22.)

LUDA. LADY Sunk.

LL Trawler LUDA LADY was mined at 1031/ today in position 281° Spurn Point Lighthouse 3 miles. LUDA LADY was sweeping at normal speed at the time when small mine exploded close on her quarter. LUDY LADY sank at 1107 in approx. 53° 36' 33" N. 00° 01' 09" W. Crew were saved.(F.O.Humber 1757/22.)

Five mines exploded plus two mines exploded under ships as reported in my 1212 and 1757. Details will follow. (F.O.Humber 1820/22.)

Sweeping at Dover.

My 1109/20. Sweeping carried out to 0800/22 in Q.Z.X.247 between No.4. and No. 1 Buoys. Two sweep obstructors found.(V.A. Dover 1231/22.)

Harwich Area.

Following signal received from H L G I N 1220/23. Sunk Light Vessel reports mine dropped approximately half cable 090 degrees from light vessel. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1257/22.)

/Exploratory.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Exploratory sweep at entry to Skagerrak.

F.O.(3) 1307/21. I do not consider the very low percentage given warrants the risk entailed to these valuable ships. Air R.C. of the area might disclose mines laid shallow.(C. in C. H.F. 1357/22.)

S.S.JAMAICA PLANTER. mined.

Immediate casualty (or Minefield) Report (1) 198° Nells Pt. 1.25 miles (2) JAMAICA PLANTER (Beached) (F.O.I/C. Cardiff 1720/22.)

My 1720/22 JAMAICA PLANTER has been beached in Old Harbour Barry. She is severely damaged. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1730/22.)

Milford Haven.

Port is closed owing to mines laid by enemy aircraft.(F.O.I/C. Milford Haven 2116/22.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy T.B.'s off French Coast.

There are indications of eight enemy torpedo craft since 0933 off coast of France. Courses received 045° 070° and 083°. Latest speed 23 knots bearing at 1030 from South Foreland 170°. Air R.C. at present not possible as machines are grounded.(V.A.Dover 1058/22.)

My 1058 indications that torpedo craft were off Gravelines at 1054. Four aircraft are taking off about 1200. (V.A. Dover 1127/22.)

Enemy Unit at entrance to Skagerrak.

By D/F at 1724 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probably surface unit in area 25 miles from 57 35 N. 6° 00'E. It is thought unlikely that an outward bound unit would make a signal in this position. (D.D.I.C. 1814/22.)

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

~~Mining Cont'd.~~

Following from Navy Department. From Rome dated 18/1. Source Italian Pilot just returned from Squadron in France (2) About 14 days previously he saw CLEMENCEAU running final trials. (3) JEAN BART will be ready for final trials in about two months. (4) After taking Le Havre and other French Ports, Germans salvaged and put in service 11 French submarines and 21 destroyers. (N.A.Washington, 1515/22 to Admty.) Comments by N.I.D. show information entirely incorrect or much exaggerated.)

French Ships and S/M's under German Control.

Miscellaneous.

Your 1750/21. Arrangements are being made accordingly. (D. of M. 1250/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

Replacement of Sunk and Shipwash Light Vessels.

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. ~~Contd.~~

ANSTERDAM
MAID OF
ORLEANS.

Military personnel ship ANSTERDAM has been ordered to report to you forthwith. E.T.A. 24/1.Arrange bunker fully with coal immediately on arrival. Order ANSTERDAM and MAID OF ORLEANS to report to S.N.O, Inverary early on 26/1. (D. of S.T. 2245/22. to P.S.T.O. Greenock.)

Use of
lights.

Admiralty Message "EI". It is suspected that U Boats or Raiders may exhibit lights with the object of making a merchant ship disclose her exact position by switching on Navigation Lights.

In the event of strange lights being sighted or of another ship exhibiting navigation lights, Masters should not themselves switch on lights unless absolutely necessary in order to avoid collision. 1707/22. to C.B.M.S. all areas.)(D.T.D.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.89. F.N.89 expected time of arrival 20 C Buoy 0130/23.
(EGRET, 0041/22, to N.O.I.C. Tyne).

F.S.92. No berth available inside Tyne.
Adjust time of arrival Tyne pier to 1445.
F.S. 92 now sails form Tyne at 1500.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0859/22 to LONDONDERRY).

Your 0859/22. Can meet convoy 20 C buoy 1600 but cannot arrive Tyne at 1445. E.S.E. gale force 9 heavy (?North West) Seas. Consider condition unsuitable for sailing convoy. (LONDONDERRY, 1158/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

F.N.87. Arrived in Firth of Forth during night. Two ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0912/22)

F.S.91. Reported at Nore L/V. 9 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1001/22).

O.B.M.278. 1750/23. H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY Five.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool 1930/22).

W.N.73 Ref. my 1143/19, convoy sailing cancelled.
W.N.74 W.N.74 will sail as my 1523/21.
(N.C.S.O., Clyde, 1146/22).

F.N.89. Due Flamborough 1530/22. }
F.N.92. Due Flamborough 0400/23. }
F.N.90. Sails from Southend 0830/23. }
(C.in C. Nore, 1200/22).

O.B.O.277. Sailed VERBENA to escort O B O 277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1206/22 to N.O.I.C. Oban).

O.B.C.277. Sailed VANQUISHER to escort O.B.C.277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1340/22)

O.B.C.277 unable to sail owing to weather.
O.B.277 proceed to Clyde.
O.B.O.277 sailing to be delayed 24 hours.
O.B.M.277 will be ordered to proceed to Clyde. (C.in C. W.A. 1519/22 to N.C.S.O. Oban, GENTIAN).

Sailed ARAKARA with O.B.277.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1520/22).

O.B.277. Sailed VISCOUNT, GENTIAN, WINCHELSEA, WHITEHALL escort for O.B.277.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1640/22).

/ O.B.277 .

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.1.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (contd.)

O.B.277. Sailed 1650/22, 6 ships 9 knots two ships with kites. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1710/22).

O.B. Routes. A.M.1927/4 and 2238/4. Unless instructions are issued to the contrary Convoys OB 279, 281, 283 and all subsequent odd numbered OB convoys will be routed through the Minches and ships from EN convoys joining these OB convoys should be detached to Loch Ewe. Routes for OB convoys indicating whether they will proceed through the Minches or not will be repeated to N.C.S.O. Methil and Aultbea. (D.T.D. 1218/22).

F.N.89. Ships in F.N.89 for Blyth and Amble should be diverted to Middlesbrough. Ships for Methil should be diverted to Tyne. You should escort final section of convoy into Tyne then proceed independently to Rosyth reporting expected time of arrival. (C.in C. Rosyth 1431/22 to EGRET, VERDUN).

Cancel my 1431. Ships bound Methil should be diverted to Tyne proceeding independently to Rosyth reporting expected time of arrival after Amble Section has left you. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1710/22, to EGRET, VERDUN).

Your 1431, ships informed. Total now Number 9 Middlesboro 15 Hartlepool 4 Sunderland 4 Tyne 14. Cdre. expects to arrive Tyne 0330. Following ships not seen ABERHILL for Methil PRINS KNUD and THESEUS for Blyth. EGRET expected time of arrival May Island. 0930. (EGRET, 1815/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1710 received too late to be complied with owing to bad weather conditions. Request N.C.S.O. Middlesbrough take necessary action on arrival extra ships there. (EGRET, 1915/22 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Your 1715. Lowestoft trawlers have left. Request permission to proceed to rejoin EGRET. (VERDUN, 1826/22, to C.in C. Nore).

F.S.92. Your 1158/22. WOLFHOUND with ships of F.S.92 will R/V with you at 20 C buoy 1600/22. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1435/22 to LONDONDERRY).

WOLFHOUND sailed with F.S.92. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1501/22).

/ F.S.92 sailed ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 92. (contd).	F.S. 92 sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1508/22).
	Ships in F.S. Convoy 92 for Humber are detached at 62 D buoy to Humber light vessel where they will be protected locally until Humber is open. (C. in C. Rosyth 1803/22 to LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND).
O.B.C. 278.	(a) 1030/24. (b) Not known. (c) 11. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1522/22).
E.N. 60.	Sailing of E.N. 60 delayed owing to weather. Intend to sail this convoy without Moray Firth Diversion a.m. tomorrow Thursday. (C. in C. Rosyth 1648/22).
S.M.V.	Crown sailed, 5 M/Vs and 2 escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1657/22).
F.S. 91.	Arrived all ships except STANWOLD and MIRRVALDIS. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1836/22).
S.L.C. 61.	Your 1149/22 via aircraft received. Trawler escort not available for Oban portion. Failing other escort joining you WOLVERINE is to escort S.L.C. 61 to Oban and then return to Base. AYRSHIRE ordered to join at Oban and then return to Base. AYRSHIRE ordered to join at 1000 is to escort Liverpool Portion and then return to base. (C. in C. W.A. 1843/22 to VETERAN, WOLVERINE).
	Your 1943/22/1 (? 1843) received too late for action. Request further instructions. (N.C.S.O. Oban 2345/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.1.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (contd).

W.N. 72. Merchant ships are to be anchored in Scrabster. FOWEY and INDIAN STAR proceed to Firth of Forth reporting expected time of arrival.
(C. in C. Rosyth, No. T.O.O/22 to FOWEY, INDIAN STAR).

W.N. 72 sheltering in Stoer Bay.
(INDIAN STAR 1440/22 to A.C.O.S).

Steamship RATHLIN only ship in W.N. 72 present sheltering in STOER BAY will proceed Scrabster 0600/23 weather permitting arriving 1600/23. Will escort RATHLIN to Scrabster and proceed Firth of Forth as instructed by your 1152/22. Have not contacted FOWEY.
(INDIAN STAR, 1645/22 to A.C.O.S.).

ORONTES. Your 1637/21 (2 Destroyers to escort ORONTES). GARLAND and LEOPARD detailed. ARROW carrying out A/S exercises in lieu of GARLAND.
(Capt (D) Greenock. 1246/22).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 104. C.O.A.C. Halifax 1151/17. 31 ships did not sail for following reason. 9 did not arrive, 5 degaussed, 3 slow convoy, 7 required repairs, 1 armament, 1 completing loading, 3 incomplete crews, 2 required water, 3 additional ships were able to sail.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax, 1124/22 to Admty).

H.G. 50. H.G. 50 not met. My position 055° 33'N. 016° 44'W. Patrol north and south, SHIKARI in company.
(HESPERUS 1129/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

H.X. 103. Convoy sailing telegram as amended by Admiralty (11 ships).
(D.T.D. 1808/22 to C. in C. W.A.).

S.L. 61. HEEMSKERK, TEMPLEMEAD and ORETA VALE not present.
(C. in C. W.A. 1919/22 to Admty).

S.C. 20. Halifax departure 22/1 RANPURA ocean escort S.C. 20. (S.O.1. Halifax 1925/22)
Sailing telegram (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1506/22).

S.L.S. 62. Your 1118/22 has been repeated to Commodore SLS 62 in Merchant Navy Code (Commodore's Recoding table) giving position as a bearing and distance from X.
(D.T.D. 1936/22 to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Troop Convoys.
ORONTES.

Request reply to my 1500/20/1 if ORONTES is sailing tomorrow 23/1 in accordance with your 1506/9/1 to F.O.C. 3rd.B.S. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 0930/22. to Adty.)

B.N.A.104.
W.S.6.

Intend providing three destroyers in addition to normal escort group to meet B.N.A.104 on 3/2. This should leave seven destroyers available for W S six on (date) I consider 15 Destroyers is desirable escort for this convoy but 12 can be accepted as a minimum. Request additional destroyers may be detailed. (C. in C. W.A.1105/22 to Adty.)

T.C.9.

Propose to sail T.C.9 consisting of 5 ships from Halifax to arrive at R/v with A/S escort on (date).

In view of W.S.6 and other committments your remarks are requested as to the date when T.C.9 can be met.(D.D.D.(H) 1530/22 to C. in C. W.A.) Reply C. in C. W.A. 1631/22. See Operations Volume.

GLENEARN.

Movements. (D.C.O. 1635/22 to V.A. Hallett, QUEBEC.)

Force Z.

Ships addressed will in future be referred to as Force "Z" (D.O.D.(H) 1636/22 to GLENCOYLE, GLENROY, GLENEARN. Orders for (Adty 1656/22.) See Operations Volume.

ORONTES.

ORONTES does not anticipate being ready to sail before 0900/24/1. Suggest ship leaves Greenock at 1800/24 in order to avoid overtaking O.B.277 in Minches before daylight. Request further instructions be sent to N.C.S.Greenock. (N.C.S.O.Clyde 1645/22.)

BURDWAN.

Re Adty. 1413/14. F.O.I.C. Greenock is to inform C. in C. Rosyth if sailing of W.S.6. is delayed in order that sailing of BURDWAN may be deferred accordingly to give more time for loading at Rosyth. (Adty 1740/22.)W.S.6. Re destroyer escort (A.C.N.S.(H) 2207/22 to C. in C. H.F.) See Operations Volume.

/AMSTERDAM.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES. & DEFECTS.

Convoy
RADIO.

Commodore aground on Haisborough. Am proceeding with remainder. (EORET 0200/22 to N.O.I.C. Humber.)

4 Ships aground on South Haisborough. Anticipate should float off on rising tide. Commodore now proceeding. (VERDUN 0302/22 to C. in C. Nore.)

MERIONES.

(British, 7557 Tons.) Tug NORMAN sailed at 0815 and Tug KROOMAN at 0835 to assist vessel on Haisborough. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0855/22.) Aground in 52° 53' N. 1° 47' E. No damage at present, but damage likely if weather worsens. Tugs urgently required. Is VERDUN to remain (VERDUN 0900/22 to C. in C. Nore.) Remain in vicinity. Do not risk grounding. Tugs have been sent. (C. in C. Nore 1041/22 to VERDUN.) Ship reports settling. Request more Tugs.(VERDUN 1340/22 to F.O.C.N.P.) Ship reports feared holed but will float when off. Awaiting high water for last try tonight. 2 Trawlers from Lowestoft standing by. Tugs present. (VERDUN 1520/22 to C. in C. Nore.) High water attempt to re-float unsuccessful. Trawler now left. (VERDUN 1725/22.) Remain till relieved. N.O.I.C. Yarmouth requested to detail Trawler to stand by (C. in C. Nore 1915/22 to VERDUN.) Tug ST.MELLONS sailed 1530 to assist Yarmouth Tugs (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2051/22.) Proceed Rosyth when Trawler STRATHRANNOCK arrives or at daylight, whichever is first. (C. in C. Nore 2315/22 to VERDUN.) Sailed M/V's SIGNALITY and GLORY at 1030/23 to assist (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1035/23.) Proceed to assist. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth to STRATHRANNOCK. Recd.2257/23.)

TRIBUNE.

Am proceeding Milford Haven to make good Engine defects. E.T.A.1201/22. (TRIBUNE 0917/22.)

/BEVERLEY.....

MOST SECRET.

22. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

BEVERLEY.	Intend anchoring Belfast Lough to examine and if possible make temporary repair of defective Steering Engine. H.T.A. 1730/22. (BEVERLEY 1315/22.)
OCEAN GAIN.	(Wiping Drifter, wooden). Sunk in collision. Now alongside Harwich West Pier. (Salvage Officer 1800/22 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)
TIERCEL.	(A/S Yacht.) Your 1622/20. To be sailed for Belfast for repairs. (D.O.D.R.1801/22 to WESTERN ISLES.)
KIRRIEMOOR.	(British,4970 Tons.) Ship is overloaded. Request Adty. inform me how much Ballast should be removed. Ship awaiting orders at Oban.(F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2210/22 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Seized French Ships, Gibraltar.

My 1012/8. Intend sailing CHARLES PLUMIER, SENATEUR DUHAMEL, JOSEPH DUHAMEL and SALLY MAERSK in H.G.52 escorted by DUNCAN on 27/1 2. As these ships have been seized in accordance with your 1845/13 and your 1348/17 and fly red ensigns, presume interception by French is unlikely and instructions contained in your 1200/8 no longer apply. 3. If possibility of interception has still to be reckoned with, it will be necessary to utilize Force H. 4. Several ships have perishable cargoes.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1318/22, to Admty).

CLEMENCEAU
JEAN BART.

N.A.Washington, 1615/22 (See Home Commands Enemy Intelligence).

POITIERS, crew internment.

Ref: my letter 1303/1540 of 27/9/40. 28 members of crew of S.S. POITIERS who scuttled herself off Bathurst when intercepted by CUMBERLAND on 16/1 are still in internment at Freetown by the Colonial Government. It was originally suggested that they should be retained in view of the fact that the French have interned British Merchant Seamen. (See my 2319/17/10). Requested I may be informed if the situation has altered in any way.
(C.in C. S.A. 2127/22 to Admty).

CUBA
ILE DE FRANCE.

My 0155/27/12. Portuguese COLONIAL sailed Freetown today 22/1 with 115 French for Casablanca ex French ship CUBA. Also on board crew of French ship ILE DE FRANCE embarked at (? Mozambique) for Lisbon and several German women and children. No grounds found for detention of latter. Ship fully Navicerted and after Casablanca proceeds Lisbon direct.
(C.in C. S.A. 2151/22 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

U/Boat at Las Palmas.

My 1645/21 Italian submarine. I have been informed, has been supplied with 75 tons of fuel and repairs now completed but diver continues examination of vessels hull(?) Rumour submarine leaving here tonight.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1100/22 to Admty, etc.)

My 1711/20 Las Palmas reports repairs to Italian U/Boat have been completed and it is rumoured that she will be sailed tonight.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1847/22 to S. and A, N.A.)

Your 1750/21. Damaged submarine is only entitled to make such repairs as are absolutely necessary to render it sea-worthy and Spanish Govt., are being pressed for strict application of international law. Request report of any further details of damage available. C.in C. S. A should be kept informed.
(Hd. of M. 1944/22 to Consul, Las Palmas).

Taking oil from German tanker CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN (See German Merchant Ships).

Unknown Ships.

Following from LOCH OSKAIG. (Begins). Sighted 12 miles south 12,000 tons merchant ship steering west 14 knots escorted by destroyer. Descriptions. Unknown nationality. My position 037° 50'N., 010° 00'W 1650/21 (Ends). Unable to identify.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1115/22 to S. and A. N.A.)
OTUS informed (Capt: S.S., 1154/22).

Your 1115/22. Spanish Cruiser A.CERVERA on route Ferrol to Cadiz was within 50 miles of this position at 1650/21.
(2320/22 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OTUS
OLYMPUS
PANDORA.

Estimated positions of submarines at 0800/23 and movements for following 24 hours (a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (b) OLYMPUS 041° 20'N., 021° W., proceeding on surface through 043° 30'N., 013° 30 W. speed 10 knots (c) PANDORA 042° N., 010° 30'W proceeding on surface through 043° 50'N., 010° 50'W speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1126/22).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Air Report.

Daily summary operations. No flying. Weather conditions unsuitable. (200 Group 1711/22).

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE
Destroyers.

FURIOUS, NEPTUNE, DUNCAN, ISIS, ENCOUNTER, FEARLESS, FURY arrived 1400/22. Unable to enter harbour owing to S.W.Gale. Ships less ISIS, ENCOUNTER are remaining at sea to eastwards until a.m./23. ISIS, ENCOUNTER entered harbour. (F.O.C.N.A. 1750/22 to Admty, etc.)

French Ships at Gibraltar.

My 1250/16 and 1318/22 to Admiralty and my 1702/22 to Admiralty for D. of S.T. French ships awaiting crews can only be manned by small maintenance parties. During a succession of heavy S.W.Gales several of these have dragged and sustained damage which might have been avoided had they been fully manned and capable of raising steam. This has shown the necessity of sending out crews from U.K. as quickly as possible. Further these ships congest an already restricted anchorage. Admiralty inform D. of S.T. (V.A.C.N.A. 1842/22 to Admty).

MARON.

Engine trouble. Returning to Gib. E.T.A. 1630 G.M.T./23. (MARON 2120/22 to N.C.I.C. Gib.)

South Atlantic.

W.S.5.A.
HAWKINS,
FORMIDABLE,
SHROPSHIRE,
NORFOLK,
AUSTRALIA.

Admty. 1642/6, paras. C and D (See Home Commands Shipping 6/1). Re Cruiser escorts. Orders for HAWKINS, FORMIDABLE, SHROPSHIRE, NORFOLK, AUSTRALIA. (D.O.D.(F) 0300/22 to C.in C's S.A. and E.I. F.O.Force K and 1522/22 to C.in C. E.I.) See Operations Vol.

W.S.5.B.
Re fuelling and Watering.

D.O.D.(F) 0303/22, C.in C.S.A. 0907N/22. See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

DRAGON
DEVONSHIRE.

Your 1740N/21 please cancel my 1721B/21. DRAGON carried out unbasining and sails 0830 and DEVONSHIRE at 1030/22.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0720B/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

317. Simonstown departures 22/1. DRAGON at 0830 speed 18 knots, DEVONSHIRE at 0930 speed 24 knots until DRAGON is overtaken when both ships proceed at speed of advance 18 knots to St. Helena (route). Unless further orders are received DRAGON will fuel at St. Helena and DEVONSHIRE will proceed to Freetown in accordance with your 2236/17.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0945/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA.

Completion date has been delayed until 25/1 owing to defect. Hope to sail ship dawn that day.
(N.L.O. Durban, 0732/22 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

WINKFIELD.

Overdue shipping, my 0955/31, WINKFIELD arrived Durban.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0905/22.)

8th D.F.

Your 2327/21 and F.O.C.N.A's 1836/21. My p.c and s. are 030° 37'N., 017° 09'W., 232° 16 knots. Fuel does not permit of reaching Freetown by route ordered.
(D.8 0914/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

D.8's 0914/22. Request you will take necessary action.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1828/22 to C.in C. S.A.)

REINA DEL PACIFICO.

Your 1728/19 part 3 (four).
REINA DEL PACIFICO does not require docking or repairs expected to sail for Capetown p.m./22.
(N.L.O. Durban, 1009/22 to Admty for D.S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ALCANTARA, QUEEN OF BERMUDA, PRETORIA CASTLE, CARNARVON CASTLE.

Your No. 223 12/12 I will consider ALCANTARA for relief of QUEEN OF BERMUDA shortly. She should have been brought up to date and have catapult. PRETORIA CASTLE now refitting and having equipment brought up to date might be made available later. CARNARVON CASTLE is at present at Simonstown will not be able to have such additional equipment fitted as this can only be done at home port.
(C.in C. S.A. 1031/N/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

BUTESHIRE.

Southbound ship crossing 20° N., for Cape, approx. noon position 23/1 and route.
(D.T.D. (851) 1324/22 to S.A. Station).

NEWCASTLE'S Aircraft.

NEWCASTLE'S aircraft crashed on landing; Aircraft sank at once. Crew safe and uninjured. LYNTON GRANGE who was at R/V has proceeded. Position aircraft sank 090° Lobos Island 33 miles.
(NEWCASTLE, 1332Z/22 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Enemy Units, estimated positions.

Enemy units mentioned in my 1101/20 my 1051/21 and my 1335/21 will be referred to as follows. The one in 025 south 010° West at 2017/19A. The one in 012° S., 008° West at 2128/20B. The one in 002° S., 008° West at 2158/20C. D/F bearings indicate unit C may have been within 150 miles of 005° south 006 West at 2158Z/21. C may R/V with unit B.
(C.in C. S.A. 1359 N/22 to S.A. Station).

Attack on Whaling Ships.

Following is situation in addition to that already signalled by South Georgia:
(a) SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN with 16 catchers a c now working in approx. 062° S., 038° W.

(b) Argentine oiler ERNE STORNQUIST leaving South Georgia 22/1 with 6000 tons of fuel oil for SVEND FOYN. Am escorting her South.

(c) Norwegian oiler LANCING has left Aruba and is on passage to oil at Ole Wegger on 1/2.

(d) THORRHAMMER with seven catchers at Grytvyken awaits owner's orders to sail.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1531Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

QUEEN OF BERMUDA can oil and water at Stromness. Have instructed Magistrate to reserve 3000 tons oil fuel for me. Have embarked a Norwegian Gunner one of the OLE WEGGER'S Catchers and intend proceeding to provide cover for SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1539Z/22).

Ref: Ponta Delgada's 2145/19. Following is further description of enemy raider:- Raider will have been able to complete with up to 6000 tons fuel oil, food and water from ships captured.
(QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1543Z/22 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

Convoy W.S.6. — Re watering (C.in C. S.A. 1923/22) See Operations Volume.

R.A.F. Developments, Freetown, Bathurst. — Would be of great assistance if some idea of general policy being followed in R.A.F. developments at Freetown and Bathurst could be given. The only Air Force Officer here has been a constructional engineer who is told to erect certain buildings. Aerodromes or landing grounds are mentioned which seem to have no bearing on main points at issue. No indication of priority has been given. Difficulty re accommodation for R.A.F. personnel. C.O.C. West Africa has no Official information. Concur fully with his recent recommendations that an R.A.F. Officer should be sent to Freetown who is fully conversant with R.A.F. policy.
(C.in C. S.A. 1747N/22 to Admty).

JAN VIDETTE. — Arrival 1830/22 JAN VIDETTE with minor defects.
(C.in C. S.A. 1957N/22 to Admty).

Italian U/Boat. — Your 1650/21 (re damaged Italian submarine) has been passed to C.in C. S.A. who should be kept informed.
(Hd. of M 2002/22 to N.A.Madrid).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Bombers.

Report 40 to 50 German H.E. III bombers may now be based on Benghazi and/or Rhodes T.O.O. 0003/22.
(Capt: S.3 0007/22 to Med. Fleet).

Air Reports, Tobruk SAN GIORGIO.

Ops. Summ. No. 226 up to 1200 hrs. 22/1.
(1) Egypt. Night 20/21. 8 Wellingtons dropped 28,750 lbs.of bombs on military targets in the Tobruk defended area as preliminary to assault by army following morning.

Day 21/1. Blenheims made 56 Sorties during day against positions inside Tobruk defences in close support of assault troops 54,000 lbs of bombs dropped hitting M.T. vehicles gun emplacements buildings on wharf and cruiser SAN GIORGIO. 2 large 4 medium 2 small merchant ships seen anchored 1 mile off Apollonia no troop movements between Mechile and Derna. Assault on inner defences Tobruk continues without serious interruption by defence.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1152/22).

GLASGOW.

A.T.1312/16, para.1. GLASGOW will be required to escort an important convoy to Suez from the Cape.
2. Request you will sail GLASGOW accordingly.
(D.O.D.(F) 1331/22 to C.in C. Med.)

Malta Air Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours G.M.T. 22/1. No air activity enemy or own today.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/22).

CLAN MACAULAY.

Slight damage to CLAN MACAULAY due enemy action temporary repairs being effected Malta. No casualties.
(S.T.O. Malta 1737/22 to D. S.T.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Tunis, report of coming attack.

Report from Swiss secret sources (begins) San Marco specialised landing battalions preparing to leave Pola. Increased activity entitles Swiss to believe that attack on Tunis is imminent. (Ends). Graded B.O.
(D.N.I. 1747/22 to C.in C. Med.)

Mines.

A dangerous area due to mines exists south of Pantellaria, within a radius of 2 miles of 36° 24' 15" N., 12° 10' E., a floating mine has been reported in 42° 12'N., 8° 27'E., approx. 5 miles west of Corsica. (D.S.506).

Convoy A.13.

Arrived Piraeus 1700Z/22.
(N.C.S.O.Athens. 1800/22).

Dispositions.

Movement summary 184. Eastern Med.
Submarines. UNIQUE in area T south of 033° 05 N., and between 012° 25' East and 013° 00' East. REGENT patrolling between 282 Derna 49 and 304 Derna 52. RORQUAL left Malta noon/22 for Adriatic passing 035 20'N., 015 20'E and 040 00'N., 019 00' E., crossing lat. 40 N., about 1800/25.
H.M.Ships. ORION, BONAVENTURE, YORK, AJAX, ILEX, HERO in position 036 00'N., 024 028 east at 0800/23 proceeding westward. BARHAM VALIANT PERTH and six destroyers left Alexandria (? at full speed) 22nd to operate West of Crete. Capt: D.10 and VAMPIRE patrolling off Tobruk to be joined by two destroyers from Alexandria p.m./23. TERROR at Alexandria leaving for Sollum p.m./23. A.N.13 due Piraeus p.m./22 A.S.13 leave Piraeus 24th for Port Said pass Kaso 2330/25 joined by FAREHAM from Suda Bay SALVIA HYACINTH patrol Kithera Straits.
T.O.O. 2150/22.
(C.in C. Med. 2304/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Kismayu. — Your 0542/21. Instructions.
(D.O.D.(F) 0302/22 to C. in C. E.I).
See Operations Volume.

Operation Breach. — My 1230/21. Movements of Force K.
(C in C E.I. 11342/22 to N.O.I.C Simonstown).
See Operations Volume.

Object and plans.
(C. in C. E.I. 18302/22 to S.O. Force K)
See Operations Volume.

Air Reports. — H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1153/22, 1154/22. A.H.Q. Aden 1754/22. No naval items.

DUCHESS OF ATHOL. VICEROY OF INDIA. — (1) DUCHESS OF ATHOLL and VICEROY OF INDIA are to be detached on arrival at latitude 029 degrees South and are to proceed independently at best speed to (?Capetown), provided (a) VICEROY OF INDIA can await arrival in U.K. for docking and repairs. (b) Ships have sufficient endurance. If answer to (a) or (b) is in negative ship concerned is to proceed subject to N.O.I/C Simonstown's concurrence to Durban. (C. in C. E.I. 07342/22 to CERES).

Cable Ships. — Your 2004/18. (1) Managers and commanders of cable ships are most helpful and provide all the information at their disposal. (2) They can not, however, give authoritive information on the following: (A) Advance programmes of cable ships (B) Docking dates of cable ships. (C) Head Office intentions as regards priority of cable repairs. All the above information is necessary to me if the Cable Company are to obtain the maximum benefit from such assistance as I can give.
(C. in C. E.I. 09582/22 to Admty).

/KANIMBLA.....

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

KANIMBLA. KANIMBLA is to leave Durban a.m./24 and proceed at 15 knots towards position 010° S. 047° E.
(C. in C. E.I. 1042Z/22).

Contraband Control, India. My telegram 26/12. I have now examined superficially contraband position here. Many gaps in existing co-ordination between Government of India and native states and complete lack of coOordination between Authorities in India and H.M. representatives in Arabian Countries Iraq, Persia and Far East and such essential key points as Colombo. Existing contraband control in Egypt appears too distant to be effective against contraband exports from India and in Indian Ocean generally. Need of more stringent control appears urgent, task considerable and expense proportionately great and much tact with native states will be required. It is however feasible. (Steps to be taken) Centre should maintain intimate relations with C. in C. East Indies and Naval Authorities generally and be governed by Naval Exigencies (Ends).
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 1153/22 to Admty).

Enemy Unit. A supposed German unit Bore 206° 2nd class from Bombay at 02122/21. No crossbearing received.
(C. in C. E.I. 1654Z/22 to S.O. Force T).

U.S.S. Departure 1930z/22 CARLISLE KANDAHAR KIMBERLEY for U.S. S.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 2041/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Conference.

Your 0317z/22. Re visit of C. in C. Far East.
(C. in C. China, 1047z/22 to First Naval Member).

Free French.

De Schompre to De Gaulle No. 45 20/1
Re volunteers from Philippines.
(C. in C. China 0427z/22).

Detection of Ships by Japan.

Your telegram No. 0001. Following letter received from Japanese Resident Naval Officer. (Asks for evidence of bribes accepted by Japanese Naval officers to release ships). As financial arrangements made by Chinese, definite proof unobtainable. As honour of Japanese Navy is involved, very delicate handling required. Suggest not to press matter further for the moment.
(N.L.O. Shanghai 0736z/22 to Ambassador, Tokyo).

Attitude of Admiral Decoux.

Ref. Bangkok's 45 to Foreign Office.
We feel this is taking too pessimistic a view. Decoux in absence of instructions from Vichy was bound to take attitude he did. We consider seriousness of the results of continued conflagration are such as to justify every effort we can exert to bring about a peaceful solution. Next move would appear to depend on what action U.S.A. are taking in any vide my 48 to Admiralty (F.O.O. 1149/20)
Governor and C. in C. Far East have been consulted and agree.
(C. in C. China 1025z/22 to Admty).

N.E.I. Bombers.

Ref. Adty (? to) C. in C. China 1546"16
if N.E.I. are given bombers obvious advantage in making them same type as we shall be using.
(Easfar Singapore 1115/22 to Air Ministry).

/Indo.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (contd).

Indo-China Trade.

Your 0946/18 para 17. These three Norwegian Ships have recently been time chartered by the Norwegian Shipping and Trade Mission to M.M.O. and have been allocated to trades outside the China Station. Presumably Indo-China Gov. will not object to three other allied ships which are free and normally engaged in the Indo-China trade being substituted. (D.T.D. 1144/22 to C. in C. China).

M.E.W. Far East.

Your 0723/20/11. Exercise of contraband control in Far East governed by War Cabinet decision of 22/4/1940 that in view of delicacy of relations with Japan, no ship should be intercepted in Pacific without consultation with Foreign and Dominions Offices. Establishment of branch M.E.W. in Far East is therefore impracticable (Reasons). Observations re importance of stopping leakage of important commodities to Germany. (Md. of M. 1417/22 to C. in C. China).

ASAKA.

Reference Embassy telegram to Foreign Office No. 108 21/1. (C. in C. China 27 C.O.I.S. Far East 47 D.N.I. Ottawa 4) Ministry of Marine have informed me that (?Japanese) Ship ASAKA left Yokosuka January 16th and is due at Panama Canal February 7th and Lisbon February 20th. From photograph of ship supplied by Ministry it appears that ASAKA is actually NYK Semi passenger ship ASAKA MARU 7298 tons. (Description). (N.A. Tokyo 1731/22 to Adty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

NEUVA ANDALUSIA. — My 2124/21. Oil Company have been informed by Texas Oil Company (owners) ship is to remain at sea pending their instructions. (N.O. Curacoa 0942/22 to D. of S.T.).

S.S. TAMERLANE. — (Carrying aeroplanes) (N.C.S.O. New York 1048/22) See Operations Volume.

Naval bases at Trinidad and Jamaica. — Your 1752/21 GOSHAWK late CORTICELLI renamed BENBOW. Large Chris-craft crash boat named GOSHAWK. (N.O.I/C Port of Spain 1150/22 to Adty).

B.H.X. 106. MALOJA. — B.H.X. 105 is cancelled, no ships having arrived at Bermuda. Intend MALOJA to act Ocean Escort for B.H.X. 106. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1642/22).

U.S. Bases. — C. in C. A.W.I. 1901/22 to Admty).

Australia.

HOBART. flagship. — F.O. Australian Squad. Transferred to HOBART 21/1. (A.C.N.B. 0712/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 1941. Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

JESSICA. 998 G.T. Reported to have left Bergan 13/1 with 250 tons of aluminium for Hamburg. (D.S. 505).

CLARA HUGO STINNES. 5295 G.T. Reported to have completed at Gothenburg by 3/12 repairs of damage done to herin air raids in Norway. Crew said to have rejoined her on 30/11. (D.S. 505).

OSORNO. Callao reports superstructive now painted black. PRINCE ROBERT informed. (S.O.I. Kingston to Admty 1109/22).

CHARLOTTE SCHLIEMANN. Reported to have procided gas oil fuel in drums (transported by barge to shore) to the damaged Italian S/m at Las Palmas on 21/1. (D.S. 506)

DRESDEN. Reported to have taken on board 86 drums of oil and 30 cases of lubricating oil. (D.S. 506).

BABITONGA. Has loaded 75 drums of oil (D.S. 506).

SALZBURG. Arrived Burgas 22/1 (Galata 1308/22) Left Varna for Turkey with transit goods from Germany for Persia (V-C Varna 1802/22).

OSORNO. FRANKFURT. PORTLAND. Following from Navy Department. From Santiago de Chile 17/1. German OSORNO begins loading wool and oats today. German FRANKFURT granted permission to load 700 tons concentrates. She has not been dry docked since war began. German PORTLAND has loaded 1000 tons of lentils, 3000 oats, 500 wool, 1490 beans and 600 concentrates. She has requested permission to bunker 6 tons of lubricating oil and 90 diesel oil. Said to have 270 tons of fuel oil on board when she arrived at Talcahuano December for bottom painting. (N.A. Washington 1700/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

N.A. Rio de Janeiro's 1735/20 (Reporting French naval forces will take MENDOZA). Report distance MENDOZA can steam with the fuel now aboard her.
(A.C.N.S. (F) 1252/22 to DORSETSHIRE).

Your 1252/22. Am rejoining MENDOZA in position 020° 50'S. 027° 53'W. at 0700/23 to ascertain whether she is being steamed with one engineer and three executive officers and 30 ratings ex DORSETSHIRE. MENDOZA's crew friendly but completely passive. Intend to stand by her pending further instructions and steer towards St. Helens at 11 knots.
(DORSETSHIRE 2301Z/22 to Admty).

CAMPANA.

CAMPANA sails 2200 local time/23 for Montevideo to complete fuel and loading frozen meat.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1820/22 to R.A.S.A.D etc)

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K. 1014Z/21. French ship JEAN L.D. should be sent to Simonstown, now Capetown vide my 1311/6/11 to C. in C. S.A. only.
(D.N.W.D. 1848/22 to C. in C. S.A.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CARLTON (torpedoed 20/12). — British, 5162 tons, from Newport to Buenos Aires with coal, torpedoed and sunk in Atlantic on 20/12. Four of crew, believed to be the only survivors, landed at an East Canadian port and are now in hospital. (D.S. 505/22/1).

MEMEA (torpedoed 16/1). — Greek MEMEA, 5101 tons, reported to have been torpedoed about 250 miles W. of River Shannon on 16/1, has sunk. (D.S. 505).

Mediterranean.

CLAN CUMMING. — (Torpedoed 19/1) Returned to Piraeus under her own steam having been torpedoed right forward. No casualties. (D.O.R., 23/1).

FENDRECHT. (torpedo 18/12) — Your 1806/20. S.S. FENDRECHT was torpedoed in North Western Approaches. (D.T.D. 1607/22 to S.O.I. Capetown).

Submarines Reported.

Las Palmas. — Italian U/Boat at, supplied with fuel. (See North Atlantic).

0940/22. — 46° N., 7° W., 250' W. by N. of Gironde, indefinite position of Italian U-boat. (D.S. 505).

0040. — My 2306/21. At 0940/22 U boat was in approximate position 046° N. 007° W. (F.O.S., 1022/22, to S/Ms on patrol Area B.)

1506. — D/F bearings on 8500 kc/s at 1506 B.S.T. indicate Italian U-boat in area 37° to 39° N. 16° 30' to 18° 30' W. (D.D.I.C. 1545/22 to F.O.C.N.A. FOLKESTONE).

Direction finding bearings at 1506 B.S.T. indicates Italian U-Boat between 037° 00' North and 039° 00' North and 016° 30' West and 018° 30' W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1821/22 to S. and A., North Atlantic Station.).

/ 1815. .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1815. By D/F on 8500 kcs. at 1815 B.S.T. Italian U-Boat in position 57° 30' N. 22° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1060/22).

1030Z/15. United States ship WINDRUSH reports sighting stationary periscope of S/M distance ½ mile painted dark brown at 1030Z/15 in position 018° 040° south 002° 050° west. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1207/22).

2037. At 2037 B.S.T. Italian U-Boat bore 319 degrees 3rd class from Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2106/22 to S. and A. North Atlantic).

Estimated U-Boat dispositions.

German
One to N.W. of Cape Verde Is.
One about 40 degs. N. 16 degs. W. outward bound.
One near Porcupine Bank outward bound.
Three between 50 degs. N. and 55 degs. N. probably near 20 degs. W.
One near 60 degs. N. 25 degs. W.
One 48 degs. N. to 50 degs. N. West of 25 degs. W.
No further information of others but probably two to N.W., one to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall.

Italian
One in Las Palmas Canaries
One about 150 miles N.E. of Madeira outward bound.
Four or five in N.W. Approaches or Atlantic whereabouts unknown but probably to S.W. of Rockall.
(D.D.I.C. 1536/22).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

22.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

1330. 1330/22. Position 065° 6' N. 008° 46' W. in Asdic contact submarine. Doppler effect obtained one pattern dropped. Continued the hunt position by dead reckoning only. (LEAMINGTON, 1430/22, to C.in C. W.A.).

LEAMINGTON Asdic Contact in position 065° 26' North 008° 46' West at 1330/22. (C.in C. W.A., 1727/22 to ships in W. App. North).

Join LEAMINGTON hunting Submarine in position 065° 26' North 008° 46' West. (C.in C. W.A., 1735/22, to LINCOLN, WATCHMAN.)

My 1430/22, position of contact now confirmed by bearing Tory Island Light coinciding with wreck chart in position 065° 23' North 008° 36' West. Have passed over contact 8 times and dropped 19 depth charges 12 set to 500 feet. Nothing has come to the surface. Contact has remained in the same position throughout. High explosives effected (Could be "no effective") reports during first attack only.
Definite Doppler report in first 5 attacks.
Propose remain in contact until daylight tomorrow.
(LEAMINGTON, 1835/22 to C.in C. W.A.).

MOST SECRET.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Western Channel Patrol. Four destroyers last night patrolled between the longitudes of the Start and Lands Ends.

Operation P.V.One. This operation was carried out between 2000 and 2359 tonight by 3 M.T.B's.

Engagement with E/Boats. VALORIUS this evening engaged 3 E/Boats which attacked Convoy F.N. 90 off Lowestoft. The enemy did not return her fire and disappeared.

Operation "Rubble". Five Norwegian ships, broke out of Goteborg at 1600 today for J.K. Units of the Home Fleet proceeded to sea to locate and protect them, and air search was ordered for tomorrow.

GNEISENAU SCHARNHORST. It is reported that two large vessels believed to be GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST passed through the Great Belt at 1180 today north bound. Air search has been arranged.

Convoy S.C.19. The slow convoy from Sydney C.B. is 48 hours late.

Smoke Defence. The use of smoke for air defence of the Fleet in harbour is being considered, consequent dn recent experience in the attack on Messina and development of R.D.F.

Destroyers for Gibraltar. JERSEY and JUPITER sailed for Gibraltar this afternoon.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Attacks on shipping today included S.S. LANGLEEGORSE (no damage reported), S.S. MOSTYN (abandoned), S.S. LURIGETHAN (on fire and abandoned), all in the Atlantic west of Ireland, and an unknown ship reported bombed and burning in the N.W. Approaches: Sunk Light Vessel (crew evacuated by ELGIN) and COVENTRY CITY (A/S Trawler slightly damaged by near miss near Sunk Light Vessel.

A/P drifter REIDS reports a possible hit on a Dornier 17 with a Holman projector off Brightlingsea.

Two bombs were dropped at Lowestoft without causing damage.

The rescue tug ENGLISHMAN has not been heard of since she reported being attacked by an enemy aircraft 40 miles West of Tory Island on 21/1. A German communique announced the sinking of a British rescue tug.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night took place off the South West Coast and probabl off East Anglia. Estimated 10 aircraft employed.

The Humber is still closed owing to visibility making sweeping impossible. Milford Haven was opened this afternoon.

M/S Trawler ROMSO was mined off the South Foreland and M/S Trawler COURTIER was damaged by a mine off Milford Haven today.

MOST SECRET.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Raider Situation.

North Atlantic. On 18/1 one surface raider was approx. 900 miles to south of the Azores possibly outward bound.

South Atlantic. There are at least two enemy units but it is not known if one may be a supply ship. By D/F on 19/1 one was to southward of St. Helena, on 20/1 one was to Eastward of Ascension possibly moving northwards.

Southern Ocean. By D/F on 19/1 one in an area about 56° S., 0 to 10° W.

Admiral Scheer. No further information.

8

North Atlantic.

Italian Submarine at Las Palmas. The Italian submarine left Las Palmas at midnight 22/23/am. It is said that the action in which she was damaged took place 4 days before arrival at Las Palmas.

Bad weather prevented flying at Gibraltar.

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Mediterranean.

Air Operations. R.A.F. last night attacked Augusta, Catania and Comiso aerodromes and Syracuse. The harbour at Rhodes was also attacked by Wellingtons which failed to locate their target, the aerodrome at Maritza.

Bombs were dropped harmlessly on Malta last night.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean. (Contd).

Operations in Libya.

C.in C. Med. reports that the Navy carried out maintenance work and supply of the army in the Western Desert without interruption since 17/1. FIONA and sweepers at Sollum are ready to clear Tobruk Harbour immediately Army control is established. One flight of F.A.A. aircraft is based at Sollum as torpedo bomber striking force. First reports indicate that demolition in Tobruk Harbour is less than was at first anticipated. TERROR left Alexandria for Sollum today.

Operation "Inspection."

ILLUSTRIOUS left Malta at 1930B today for Alexandria, screened by 4 destroyers, which left Suda Bay 21/1. At 0800 ORION, BONAVENTURE, AJAX and two destroyers (left Suda Bay 21/1) were in position 36° N., 24° 28 E., proceeding westward. BARHAM, VALIANT, PERTH and 6 destroyers left Alexandria yesterday to operate west of Crete in support.

MOST SECRET.

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23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SANDHURST. To proceed to Londonderry to act as Destroyer Depot and Repair Ship. (V.C.N.S. 1253/23.)

Smoke as A/A.Defence of Fleet. Use of smoke for air defence of Fleet in harbour has hitherto been rejected because of time and effort required to produce an adequate screen and also interference with own gunfire. Recent experience in attack of Messina and development of R.D.F. suggest, however, that employment of smoke under favourable conditions is worth considering, particularly at night, when less smoke is needed and direct control of ship's gun-fire is less effective than by day. Request your opinion and that any trials considered desirable may be carried out as opportunity offers. (V.C.N.S. 1706/23 to C. in C.H.F. and C. in C. Med.)

Kites in Rescue Tugs. In view of attack on ENGLISHMAN request you will arrange for kites to be fitted in Rescue Tugs and flown when West of 7° West. (C. in C.W.A.1915/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/23. (D.C.1185/23.)

Invasion)
Exercise)
VICTOR.)

C. in C.H.F. 0600/23, 1801/23,
C. in C. Portsmouth 0217/23, 1125/23,
1432/23, 1455/23, 1503/23, 1801/23,
1802/23. C. in C.W.A. 0320/23, 0519/23,
0556/23, 0850/23, 1031/23, 1034/23,
1326/23, 1749/23, 2325/23, 1741/23.
C. in C. Rosyth 0254/23, 0256/23, 0828/23,
1120/23, 1140/23, 1200/23, 1328/23,
1354/23, 1432/23, 1600/23, 1742/23,
2316/23. C. in C. Nore 0941/23, 1106/23,
1124/23, 1135/23, D.C. 0111/23, 0926/23,
0927/23, 1042/23, 1400/23, 1814/23.
F.O.I.C. Belfast 0002/23, 0013/23.
Air Ministry 0005/23, 1141/23.
FORESIGHT 0004/23. V.A. Dover 0215/23,
0315/23, 0814/23. F.O.I.C. Liverpool
0101/23, 0956/23. D.S.O. 0110/23. F.O.I.C.
Greenock 0413/23. OTTAWA 0301/23.

/H.Q.C.C.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

Invasion Exercise VICTOR.

H.Q.C.C. 0005/23.
Controller 16 Group 0717/23.
A.C.O.S. 1011/23.
F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 0430/23.1130/23.
Capt. D. Londonderry 1320/23.
F.O. Humber 1416/23.
Admiral Blake 1721/23.
D.D.I.C. 2231/23.
Naval Umpire, Rosyth 2315/23.

Employment of aircraft at Iceland.

C.O.C. informs me function (corrupt group) Norwegian seaplane is army contact and striking force. Request early consideration be given to provision of aircraft to carry out functions previously undertaken by Walrus: oversea r/c. from each defended area, A/S patrol for A.M.C. and transports, investigation of reports at sea. Suggest in addition A/S protection for Northerly convoy routes by small numbers flying boats working from Reykjavik and Reydarfiord. Consider it essential that all aircraft proceeding seaward of coastline should be under naval orders. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1637/23.)

Movements

KELLY
JERSEY
JUPITER
KASHMIR.

Sailed 1630/22 from Plymouth. (C. in C. W.A. 0015/23.)

JERSEY)
JUPITER.)

Request you sail 2 of 5th D.F. for Gibraltar, making best use of dark hours, to arrive PM/26. (A.C.N.S.H. 0043/23 to C. in C. W.A.) Destroyers detailed to return Plymouth arriving Rame Head 1030/23.(C. in C.W.A. 0203/23 to Capt. D.5.) Intend sailing JERSEY and JUPITER for Gibraltar at 1630/23. (C. in C.W.A.1129/23 to Adty.) Route (C. in C.W.A.1515/23 to Adty.) JERSEY, JUPITER sailed 1640.E.T.A. Gibraltar 1300/26 (C. in C.W.A.1919/23 to Adty.)

/J.3968 Cancel.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

J.3966. Cancel my 1215/22 and 1703/22. (C. in C. H.F. 0909/23 to AURORA) F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22. Request E.T.A. May Island. (C. in C. Rosyth 1545/23 to Adty.)

KOOLEAN)
WHITSHED) Sailing delayed 24 hours by Fog. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1001/23 to C. in C. Rosyth)
My 1458/22. Request same arrangements for 25th.(C. in C. Nore 1125/23 to H.Q.F.C.)

BOREAS. Intend sail 0630/24 for Sheerness via. D.G.Range.(F.O.I.C. London 1243/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

Northern Patrol.
UNDAUNTED)
KINFERVE.) Trawler line occupied tonight (one trawler)(A.C.O.S.1931/23.)
Should cross bar on flood tide,not earlier than 1100/24. (Capt. S.9. 1715/23.)

Force Z, escort. 1. Your 1655/22. As KASHMIR must boiler clean, KELLY KIPLING and JACKAL will be available. Another destroyer will be attached to D.S. as four destroyers are considered minimum A/S escort.
2. There will, consequently, be no destroyers at Plymouth for several days which in view of the considerable traffic in the Channel is considered most undesirable.3. Propose that two destroyers from the Clyde should be substituted for KELLY and KIPLING.(C. in C. W.A.1907/23 to Adty.)

Operations.

WISA. (Finnish, 3830 Tons.) Have intercepted in 62° 44' N. 15° 48' W.(NORTHERN GIFT 0510/23.) To be sent to Reykjavik under armed guard.(F.O.C.N.P. 1106/23 to Adty.)

/P.V.I. Will.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

P.V.1. Will be carried out tonight from 2000 to 2359 (C. in C. Nore 1103/23.)Sailed M.T.B.'s. 22,30,31 at 2017.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 2022/23.)

Inversry Brigade Exercise. Following arrangements for Personnel Ships are being made for 5th to 7th February.(A.D.O.D.1331/25 to V.A.C.T.C.)

Patrols H.R.and H.S. My 0920/23. Patrols are covered by DHOON only. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1415/23 to Adty.)

Operation RUBBLE. Five ships sailing for U.K. 1600/23. (N.A.Stockholm 1510/23 to D.N.I.) My 1056/26/12. 5 Ships sailing 1600/23. (D.O.D.N.1745/23 to C. in C.H.F.,etc.) Adty. 1056/26/12. 5 Ships reported sailed from Goteborg at 1600/23. Approximate speeds. C.S.15 in NAIAD with AURORA to proceed when ready through Position Z.Z. to endeavour to locate and protect. Force should not operate Eastward of 5° E. and to withdraw to Westward after dark. C.S.18 in EDINBUROH with BIRMINGHAM will be operating in support. (C. in C.H.F. 1927/23 to C.S.15.) My 1510/23. Ships have sailed (N.A.Stockholm 1947/23 to D.N.I.) My 1745/23. Ships have sailed. (D.O.D.N.2255/23 to C. in C. H.F.) My 1927/23. C.S.18 in EDINBUROH, with BIRMINGHAM, ESCAPADE, ECHO, and ELECTRA to proceed when ready, passing through 59° N. 3° E. at 1400/24, cruising to South-westward until 1600/24 and then shaping course for Scaps if no information received. C. in C. Rosyth requested to arrange Fighter Escort from daylight /24 for as long as possible.(C. in C. H.F. 2311/23 to C.S.18.) Request Air Search to report RUBBLE and Enemy Forces approaching Area from direction Horns Reef and Skaggerack during daylight/24. (C. in C.H.F. 2324/23 to C. in C.Rosyth Sailed from Scaps 2250/23.NAIAD with AURORA (A.C.O.S.2331/23.)

/E-Boats.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

E.-Boats. 3 E-Boats engaged in 52° 27' N.2° 3' E. Enemy did not return fire and disappeared. (VALOROUS 2111/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

Submarines.

SEALION. My 1011/22 and F.O.Number 1203/23. R/V postponed till 1000/25. (S.6. 1553/23 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Positions. At 0800/24. (F.O.S.1742/23.)

TITANIA
MAIDSTONE. 479. My 1752/21. Most desirable that the distribution of S/M Depot Ships should be completed before the invasion season becomes advanced. To ensure TITANIA reaching Gibraltar before the middle of March I would be quite prepared to dispense with the proposed docking of MAIDSTONE. C. If any possibility of completion date of TYNE being delayed, request consideration to releasing MAIDSTONE from her present duties without relief.(F.O.S. 2303/23. to Adty.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols. FAIR cancelled. UNIT delayed. (C. in C. Rosyth 1000/23.)

Shooting
down of
own A/C. Your 1956/22. Request Board of Enquiry forthwith into circumstances in which Blenheim Aircraft of 139 Squadron was engaged and destroyed.
2/3 Arrangements.

Board of
Inquiry. (D. of L.D. 1221/23 to C. in C. Nore.)

FURIOUS. Subject to machinery being satisfactory on arrival, FURIOUS to embark following A/C at Tail of the Bank. (D.N.A.D. 1226/23 to FURIOUS.)

Lorient. AP.783/23/1. Repeat tonight operation ordered for Night 22/23. (H.Q.O.C. 1245/23.)

/Recognition.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Recognition of A/C by Convoy Escorts.

C. in C. W.A. 1313/22., Consider most undesirable that ships should be prohibited from firing at an unrecognised aircraft until it is within 3,000 yards range. Lack of success achieved by the enemy in daylight attacks on east coast convoys is considered to be due largely to the fact that escorts have been able to fire on such aircraft in plenty of time. (C. in C. Rosyth 1847/23 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

LANGLEE CORSE.

(British, 4524 Tons.) Attacked in 53° 19' N. 13° 11' W. (Portishead 1000/23.)

ENGLISHMAN.

No further news this morning (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1050/23 to C. in C. W.A.) Tug last heard of 40 miles West of Tory Island being attacked by A/C. Keep look out for her or survivors (A.C.W.A.1525/23.) Enemy broadcast have claimed to have sunk a Tug going to help a bombed M/V. (D.D.I.C. 1736/23 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Lowestoft.

At 1105 a single A/C, believed Junkers 88, dropped 2 H.E. Bombs at root of Claremont Pier. No damage or casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1152/23.)

M/V. bombed.

Detail one ship to investigate M/V reported bombed and burning in 56° 10'N. 16° 50' W. at 1115/23.(C. in C. W.A. 1223/23 to ANTELOPE.)

MOSTYN.

(British 1859 Tons) Bombed in 54° 37' N. 14° 35' W. Crew abandoning Ship. (A.O.C.No. 42.(M) Group. Recd.1246 and 1300/23.)

/Proceed.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

MOSTYN.Contd.	Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A. 1307/23 to SHIKARI) Sailed SALVONIA from Campbeltown to assist (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/23 to C. in C.W.A.) Have found no trace in position indicated. Intend rejoining convoy if search still unsuccessful at midnight.(HESPERUS 2205/23.)
Sunk Light Vessel.	Bombed. Crew being evacuated by ELGIN. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1304/23.)
COVENTRY CITY.	(A/S. Trawler) Slightly damaged by near miss Bomb. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1304/23, to C. in C. Nore.)
LURIGETHAN.	(British, 3564 Tons.) Bombed and on fire in 53° 46' N. 16° W. (Port Patrick 1311/23.) Abandoning ship(Lyness W/T. 1429/23.) Proceed to assist (C. in C.W.A. 1437/23 to ARABIS.) Sailed PRUDENT from Campbeltown to assist. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 1550/23.)
TEMPLE MEAD.	Arrived CAMELIA with Survivors. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23.)
REIDS.	(A/P Drifter) Reports possible hit on Dornier 17 with Holman Projector in 51° 41' 36" N. 1° 20' 30" E. at 1200/22. (SOAP. Brightlingsea 1640/23 to C. in C. Nore.)
LLANWERN.	(4986 tons) was damaged by air attack at Avonmouth 16/1. (DOR).

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep by 5th M/S.F. — Cancel my 2215/20. Operation ordered in my 2237/16 postponed and is now to commence at dusk Tuesday 28th Tuesday January completing by dark 29/1. (C. in C. Rosyth 1105/23 to M/S.S.)

Sunk Light Vessel. — A Mine is reported dropped ½ cable East of the Sunk Light Vessel.(D.S.507.)

B.S.50. — Intend to sail from Rosyth at 0845/24 and take departure for initial position from 21 C buoy at 1345/14. Returning to 21 C Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1545/24. (TEVIOT BANK 1118/23.)

Humber. INTREPID. — My 1440/21. Anticipate Humber will remain closed until 1200 tomorrow Friday owing to visibility making sweeping impossible. Consequently sailing of INTREPID is delayed.(F.O.Humber 1203/23.)

Milford Haven. — Port will be opened at 1400 today subject to local restrictions. Except to I.C.S. Ships.(F.O.I.C.Milford Haven 1258/23.) 3 Mines detonated by M/S Trawler and one spontaneous Explosion on 23/1.(D.S.507.)

IMPULSIVE. — Proceed to Humber timing your arrival so as not to arrive before 1200/24. (C. in C. Rosyth 1453/23 to IMPULSIVE.)

Sails Methil at 2300 for Humber. (C. in C. Rosyth 1944/23.)

/RONSO.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

COURTIER. (M/S Trawler) Damaged by Mine on 23/1 in Milford Haven. (D.S.507.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Norwegian Coast 13/1, 15/1, 16/1. WILK reports between 13/1 and 15/1 the following lights were observed burning at various times. Olesvaeg, Skarve, Tellevag, Marsten, Tekselen. On the 16th two groups of fishing vessels were near 60° 13' N. 4° 49' (F.O.S. 1028/23.)

Unidentified Vessels. Following have not been identified. One small slow vessel bearing 292°. 8 Miles course 240° at 0219/23. One small slow Vessel bearing 300° Distence 9 miles course 040° at 0245/23. Both from Fair Isle. (A.C.O.S.1205/23.)

Lethal Gas. N.A. Budapest 1445/21. See Mediterrenean.

Brest. 22/1. 1 HIPPER - class cruiser in dry dock. (D.D.I.C. 1649/23.)

Ice Report. N.A.S. Stockholm 1803/23.

N.W.Coast of Norway. Air R/C of N.W. Coast of Norway on 21/1, gave the following results:- In area 64° 30' N. 10° 00' E to 66° N. 12° E. 6 ships, 5 proceeding North.

At BODO 1 M.V. 4-5000 tons at anchor off shore. 1 M.V. about 4000 tons approaching from S.W. No sign of activity on aerodrome.

In VESTFIORDEN. About 90' S.W. Narvik 1 MV 6000 tons. course North.
About 65' S.W. Narvik 2 Ocean Going tugs. Course North.
About 45' W x S Narvik 2 MVs.4000 tons, 1 loaded Course W. 1 unloaded. Course East.

/LAVANGSFIORD.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

LAVANGSFIORD.	(About 25' W. of Narvik, 1 MV.6000 tons and 3 or 4 smaller MV's.
NARVIK.	5 ships between 3000 and 6000 tons, and 12 smaller vessels of coasting type. 1 MV.6000 tons by jetty at railhead. (D.D.I.C. 1916/23 and 2354/23.)
Convoy off Stavanger.	From W.T.I. there is a possibility that a convoy may be moving northward on the Norwegian Coast and may be near Stavanger at 1800 tonight.(D.D.I.C. 1918/23 to C. in C.H.F.)(F.O.S.1949/23 to O.23.)
Enemy M/V.	German merchant ship 7700 tons was expected to leave Aalesund about 22/1 for Bergen.(F.O.S. 2001/23 to O.23.)
E-Boat.	1 Enemy Motor Boat position 52° 17' N. 1° 58' E. (VESPER 2119/23.)
Enemy M/V.	At 1400/22 in 52° 46' N. 2° 3'E. one 6000-Ton M/V. being towed backwards by 2 Tugs. Thought to be heading West. (H.Q.B.C.Recd.2221/23.)

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

O.B.277. CORSAIR and 2 M.V.'s Sailed 0700/23/1/41 in convoy to join O.B. 277 at R/V D two. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0845/23.)

F.S.92. 11 Ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0932/23.)

W.N.73A. My 0909/21 and N.C.S.O. Oban's 2105/22. JASON is to return from Scapa with W N 73 A, code word LIMITED, escorts SOUTHERN PRIDE and PENTLAND FIRTH due Duncansby Head 1000/25. (O. in C. Rosyth, 1101/23, to JASON.)

W.N.73(O) Sailed 1430/23. Escort from Bloody Bay onwards SOUTHERN PRIDE, PENTLAND FIRTH. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1531/23.)

E.N.61. (s) 0100/24, H.M.T's ELLESMERE and SALTERELLO, additional escort HASTINGS, 18 ships. (8 overseas.) Code words:- E.N.61, E.N.L. Portion E.N.O.Portion. MIGHT, MONITOR, MIXTURE. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1131/23.)

E.N.60. My 0941/23 E.N.60, (para.(B) delete FOXTROT and add PIROUETTE. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1131/23.)

E.N.60. (a) 1200/23. (b) H.M.T's GAVOTTE, PIROUETTE, RUMBA additional escort JASON (c) 14 ships, 2 ships for Clyde. 3 with Kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1511/23 to A.C.W.A.)

/F.N. and F.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.N. and F.S. Escorts.

My 1148/22.

F N.	F S	
-	95	PUFFIN.
91	96	WIDGEON.
92	-	SNAPDRAGON.
94	-	PUFFIN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1132/23.)

F.N.92. Am anchored with convoy F.N.92. 4 ships in company. Thick fog. (WOLFHOUND, 1220/23 to C. in C.Nore.)

F.N.90. 1046/23. 21 ships.(N.C.S.O.Thames, 1244/23.)

E.N.60. E.N.60. sailed 1200 and will be met
F.S.94. off Cruden Scaurs by 19th M/S Group
F.S.95. who will then sweep ahead of F.S.94
W.N.72.A. sailing 1400 Due 20 C Buoy 0300/24.
E.N.61. F.S. 95 sails 2300, W N 72 A, one ship only, off Noss Head 2000, E N 61 sails 0100/24. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1532/23.)

C.E.23. My 1557/22. C.E.23 sailed 1515/23. Amendments to ships. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1557/23.) List and destinations. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1607/23.)

F.S.94. Sailed 1430/23. 24 ships. 3 ships with Kites. Numbers are approximate. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1613/23.)

O.B.O.277. 0700/24/1. Escort VERBENA.12 ships. (N.O.S.O. Oban, 1715/23.)

O.B.M.278. Ships, destinations and E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford H.,1720/23.)

O.B.M.278. 1700/23 H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY. Three. One with kite. (N.C.S.O. Milford H.,1754/23.)

/F.S.92.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.S.92. F.S. 92 weighed and proceeded. (LONDONDERRY 2253/23, to C. in C. Nore.)

F.S.95. Sailed. 38 ships. Ships with kites unknown. (N.O.S.O. Methil, 2331/23.)

Ocean Convoys.
S. L. 61. Londonderry departure 23/1 AYRSHIRE for S L 61. (N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0959/23.)

S. L. 61B. Request you sail LEEDS UNITED to endeavour to meet S L 61 B, estimated to reach position in W A C I 269 E part one para. 2 at 2200/23. (C. in C. W.A., 1213/23, to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

S. C. 19. 48 hours late. 19 ships in convoy. (AURANIA, 1100/23, to C. in C.W.A.)

S.C.19 is 48 hours late. ANTHONY and ANTELOPE are to leave C.B.276 at 1000/24 and refuel at Lough Foyle then proceed to meet S.C.19. Other escorts remain with with C.B.276, leaving in time to meet S.C.19 in 55° 12' N. 21° 52 W. at 1100/26. (C. in C.W.A., 1806/23, to ANTHONY, ANTELOPE, PICOTEE, HEATHER PEGASUS.

U. G. 50. Your 1307 re S.S.MOSTRIN, HESPERUS and SHIKARI in position 055° 52' N, 011° 36' W, searching for H.G.50. Am proceeding assistance of bombed ship as SHIKARI is short of fuel, (weather) (HESPERUS 1416/23, to C. in C. W.A.)

/Positions.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Ocean Convoys.
Positions.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

My 1831/26/9, cancel 54° N. 20° W and substitute 51° N. and 30° W. Positions on ocean routes as far as 7° W, are to be included in VESCA signals. (D.T.D. 1640/23 to A.I.C.48.)

Evasive Steering.

Some Commodores have pointed out that, when carrying out evasive steering with columns 3 cables apart, the distance between columns sometimes becomes dangerously small if alterations of course are made by the methods ordered in your 1943/9/12/40. (N.O.I.C. Freetown 1539/22. to Admty.)

Independent Sailings Special Protection.

To enable all possible protection or cover to be provided for Merchant Vessels sailing independently and carrying (1) 100 or more Service personnel (2) 1,000 or more tons of War Material (3) specially valuable stores or high officials or (4) ships of particular importance. Authorities addressed should keep each other and Adty informed of a forecast of all such movements by signal at approximately weekly intervals. Adty. will initiate similar signals for outward bound ships. (4) Ships in Troop Convoys, single Troop ships and ships carrying special supplies when escorted by H.M. Ships are not affected by above procedure and will continue to be reported to authorites concerned as at present. (D.T.D.1628/23.)

All signals giving sailing dates and routes of independent ships should include A.C.C.S. in addressees and should be repeated to S.O.N.P. Trawlers, Kirkwall. (D.T.D. 1941/23, to A.I.C. 47.)

/MILITARY.....

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

MILITARY CONVOYS.

S. L. 61.B.

Your 0915/23. As it is improbable that LEEDS UNITED will be able to overtake S.L.61B AYRSHIRE is to escort Bristol Channel ships to destination unless relieved by LEEDS UNITED. VETERAN escort Liverpool ships to destination. (C. in C. W.A. 1505/23 to VETERAN.)

SOMERSETSHIRE.

330. Your 1531/22. No information had been received of SOMERSETSHIRE'S route. It has now been ascertained as follows from Clyde through Minches.(C. in C. W.A. 1543/23 to A.C.C.S.

W.S.6.

My 2318/21. W.S.6 delayed 48 hours and will not be ready to sail until February 7th. (D.O.D.H. 1604/23.)

T.C.9.

5 Ships. Movements, Escorts, Communications. (A.C.N.S.H. 1635/23.)
See Operations Volume.

Troop Convoys
Force Z.

Admiralty's 1653/22. Time and position of rendezvous K.(A.C.W.A.,2323/23 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Thursday

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

CAMELIA. TIERCEL.	Arrived CAMELIA with survivors from TEMPLE MEAD and TIERCEL with defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1340/23.)
PASS OF LENY.	(British Tanker, 795 Tons.) Is safe but has extensive bottom damage and is leaking in most compartments. Engine room partly flooded but under control of salvage pumps. Rudder gone. Petrol and paraffin cargo will be transferred to PASS OF BALLATER. Estimated temporary repairs to enable proceed to repair port will take at least two weeks. METINDA in attendance carrying out repairs. (C.S.V.O. Scapa 1700/23 to A.C.O.S.)
BREDA.	(Yacht) While boiler cleaning alongside Princes Pier has been badly damaged by S.S. EMPIRE RAINBOW. Estimated time for repairs not yet known. (F.O.S. 1831/23.)
PICOTEE. (Corvette)	Have struck submerged object in 056° 05' N. 017° 12' W.? (carrying away) dome and transmitter. Ship making water. Request permission to return to harbour. (PICOTEE 2015/23 to ANTELOPE.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

General.

Raiders. Situation (my 1756/16). (D.D.I.C., 1920/23 to C.in C's - See Situation Report.)

Operations Against Vichy French.

GUADELOUPE Following from Navy department from Havana, 19/1. Report German S/M sighted position 21° 38' N. and 81° 23' W. German (?COLOMBIA) Courier sailed for Mexico 17/1. From Port de France, French Ship GUADELOUPE sailed for Guadeloupe 18/1.
(N.A. Washington, 1055/23, to Admty.)

French Convoy. French armed trawler CAPITAINE ARMAND passed Gibraltar 0830/23, direction not reported, escorting French M.V's MONTAIGNE, 2770 tons, IMERETHIE II, 3713 tons, and EDEA, 3747 tons. (D.O.R. 24/1).

Ships not to be sent to S. African ports. My No. 125/62 of 15/11 as amended by South Atlantic Station message 1330 of 30/12 and 1420 of 17/1 (none to Admiralty). Vichy French merchant ships are not to be sent into any port in Union of South Africa except Simonstown.
(C.in C. S.A. 2085N/23, to S. Atlantic Station.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OSIRIS. My 1556/13. Has OSIRIS arrived?
(F.O.C.N.A. 0946/23 to C.in C. Portsmouth.

Italian U/B, Las Palmas. Italian submarine still in port, endeavouring to ascertain reason why.
(Consul, Las Palmas 1125/23, to Admty.)

Min. for For. Aff. informs Embassy that Italian submarine at Las Palmas has damage to double bottom and vertical rudder and has been given five days to repair damage to be fit to navigate. (NA Madrid 1806/23)

FURIOUS NEPTUNE etc. My 2780/22 (ships unable to enter harbour owing to gale). Vessels entered harbour at 1050/23. (F.O.C.N.A. 1128/23).

Admty. 1655/22. Anticipated dates of sailing and escort. (F.O.C.N.A. to Admty., 1038/23) See Operations Vol.
Your 1838/23. Requirements for VELOX, VIDETTE, FAULKNOR, FORESTER. Not available for Gibraltar on date required. (C.in C. A.A. to F.O.C.N.A. 1947N/23)
See Operations Volume.

Patrol Area. C.W.O. 33 paragraph 21 not issued to F.O.C. Northern Patrol. Amend Western Patrol Trawler area Y 3 to read bounds on the south by parallel 036° 15' N. on the west by Meridian 008° 00' W. on the north and east by line drawn 10 miles distant from coast. (F.O.C.N.A., 1607/23, to Admty. F.O.C.N.P.)

Air Patrols. No flying carried out owing to weather. (200 Group 1700/23).

MARON Request gate at 1830 and tug. (Defect).
My 2120/22, amend e.t.a. to 1730 G.M.T.
(MARON, 1630/23 to N.O.I.C. Gibraltar).

Gibraltar arrival 1930/23 MARON with engine defect.
(S.O.I. Gib., 2020/23).

OTUS. Position of submarines at 0800/24 and movement for following 24 hours.
(a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1728/23).

/ ORION ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ORION)
BELGIQUE) (Shipping) Routes. (F.O.C.N.A. 1800/23.)

South Atlantic.

SOBIESKI
KENYA
Your 1247/21. Approved.
2. Your 1823/20 approved.
3. My 1060/19. Cable and Wireless Limited request (names) returned to U.K. (A.C.N.S.(F) 0047/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

W.S.5B.
Cabin
Accommodation. (D. of S.T. 0204/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Troopships,
Drydocking. My 1738/19. In view of importance of (A) utilising all homeward cargo space and (B) minimizing strain on U.K. drydocks etc., request early report as to sailing dates from Cape if ORANTO and VICEROY OF INDIA were to drydock at Durban and subsequently load cargo to capacity and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL were to load cargo also.
What further delay would result if STRATHNAVER and STRATHALLAN were also to drydock?
(D. of S.T. 0205/23 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

JEAN L.D. C.in C. S.A. 1011K/23 1105/23, S.N.O. Simonstown 1533B/23 1843B/23, see French Merchant Ships.

CLAN MACNAUGHTON. Overdue shipping, my 1135/20, CLAN MACNAUGHTON arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1025B/23).

MENDOZA
DORSETSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON
DELHI .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MENDOZA
DORSETSHIRE
DEVONSHIRE
DRAGON
DELHI

Your 1252/22.
Present instructions are:-
(a) MENDOZA to proceed to Ascension arriving about 27/1, (my 2233/19.)(See also French Merchant Ships).
(b) DORSETSHIRE proceed St.Helena arriving about 25/1, fuel, thence to Freetown passing Ascension about 27/1.
(ii) DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON will be at St.Helena 25/1 and can be at Ascension, DEVONSHIRE 27/1 DRAGON 28/1? DELHI will be available in Freetown neighbourhood.
(iii) Intention was to provide (?onward) escort and cover for French ships from Ascension out of these forces.
(iv) There is fuel at St.Helena if desired to send French ships elsewhere - Cape or Lagos.
(v) If other instructions are intended request they may be sent at once as if DORSETSHIRE delays longer she will not be at Freetown in time to comply with your 1749/17. Suggest W/T silence be maintained by DORSETSHIRE if possible. This had been complete since leaving Freetown 8/1.
(C.in C. S.A. 1123H/23, to Admty.)

Concur with the instructions contained in your 1123/23.
Cancel A.T. 1252/22.
(D.O.D.(F) 1818/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Suspicious Ship.

Punta Arenas 19/1 unrecognized tanker passed towards Atlantic.
(S.O.I., Montevideo, 1144/23).

Suspicious Ship, WINDRUSH.

U.S. ship WINDRUSH reports when steering 136° at 1000Z/6, in 8° 0' N. 27° 50' W. sighted a strange ship similar in appearance to Dutch ELANDSFONTEIN (description). Sighted on port bow heading 000° apparently stopping later passed 3 miles astern at high speed in direction of Cape Verdi.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1156/23 to Admty.)

/ SARTHE ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

SARTHE. Southbound ship crossing 20° North for Plate. Approximate noon position, 24/1 and Route.
(D.T.D. 1248/23 to S.A. Station.)

ALCANTARA. Your 1017/20.
Following improvements are being carried out in ALCANTARA.
(D.O.D.(F) 1255/23 to C.in C. S.A.)

Enemy Units. My 1359/22. D/F bearings indicate following.
Unit A was within 150 miles 013° S (?013° or 050°)W. at 2136/22.
Raider who was in vicinity of 057° S. 012° W. at 2217/18 has moved to within 150 miles 053° S. 032° W. Reliability 60%. Within 300 miles radius 90%.
This unit will be referred to as D.
A possible U-boat within 30 miles 000° 30' N. 019° W. at 0016/23.
(C.in C. S.A., 1337B/23).

At 2137/23 G.M.T. on 9470 Kcs and unknown enemy unit bore from Cupar 200/3.
Text of message UU ZHAUVUZ.
(D.D.I.C. 2358/23 to C.in C. S.A.).

Re Convoys. N.C.S.O. Freetown 1339/22. See Ocean Convoys.

MURJEK. It is desired that Swedish ship MURJEK now at Santos should proceed to Gothenburg via Freetown in order there to land Norwegian members of the crew who do not wish to go to Sweden.
Master agrees but has been told by owners to go to Fernambuco for orders.
Please arrange for owners to authorities call at Freetown. (D.E.W.D. 1646/23 to S.A. Stockholm).

/ VIDETTE
W.S.5B .....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

VIDETTE W.S.5B.	Departure 1800/23 VIDETTE to rendezvous with W.S.5B at 0600/24. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1937N/23 to Admty.)
VIDETTE) VELOX) FAULKNOR) FORESTER)	Requirements for. (C.in C. S.A., 1947N/23 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Vol.

Mediterranean.

Air Report, Comiso, Catania, Augusta, Syracuse raided.	Special Operational Summary. All times G.M.T. Following R.C. 21/1 of Sicilian Aerodromes, 6 Wellingtons despatched in 2 separate sections to attack Comiso and Catania night 22/3 Jan. First 3 detailed to attack Comiso but only 1 aircraft located target due to clouds. Remained 1 hour over target. (H.Q. Med., 0715/23).
UNIQUE UPHOLDER	My 1255/13 para. 4. Leave patrol P.M./25 through 033° 05' 013° 00' 035° 31' 014° 14' to arrive off Marsamxett Harbour 0700 A/27 making a short area report when considered safe to do so after crossing lat. 035°. UPHOLDER will leave Malta P.M./24 through 035° 38' 014° 07' approx. course 230°. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1213/23, to UNIQUE).
Air R.C. of Genoa required.	Air reconnaissance of Genoa to establish position of warships in harbour is urgently required. (D.D.I.C. 1217/23 to V.A. Malta).

/ RECENT ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

REGENT. Leave patrol forthwith and proceed through 033° 00' 024° 36' to arrive Alexandria sanctuary 0600/26. British forces will be to northwards of you during 25th. Tobruk is captured and British forces are to be expected between this port and Alexandria continuously. (Capt. S.1, 1500/23, to REGENT).

Air Report. Tobruk. Derna. Capture of Tobruk. Operational Summary No. 227 up to 1200 hours 23/1. 1. Egypt day 21/1. Further report 31,000 lbs. of bombs dropped on Tobruk defences and gun positions by 31 Blenheim sorties. Night 21/22/1. 8 Wellingtons dropped 23 750 lbs. of bombs on Derna Day 22/1. 7 Blenheims dropped 7,000 lbs. of bombs on Derna hitting barracks and W/T Station. 7 Blenheims dropped 7000 lbs. of bombs on Apollonia barracks. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols over Acroma and Tobruk areas and provided protective patrols for Blenheims bombing Apollonia and H.M. destroyers operating off coast there. Army captured Tobruk with estimated 15,000 prisoners. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1519/23).

ILLUSTRIOUS SOUTHAMPTON Information would be of great value concerning recent air attacks on Mediterranean Fleet including ILLUSTRIOUS and SOUTHAMPTON. Experience on following points would be of special interest. (C.in C. M.F., 1531/23 to Admty.)

Malta Air Report. 2010 to 2113 4 aircraft flew over or near Malta separately. Searchlights did not expose and enemy apparently unable to locate the Island. Only 2 bombs on land caused neither damage nor casualties. Part 2 Reconnaissance. 0540 to 1030 Swordfish Anti-ship Patrol between Malta and Tunisian Coast. No ships seen. 1105 to 1250 Spitfire photo "reco" Tripoli Harbour and Castel Benito Aerodrome. Tripoli 8 large M/V's 2 Tankers 9 small M/V's 2 destroyers 2 torpedo boats. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1730/23 to Air Ministry).

/ URSULA. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

URSULA. Pass through positions 038° 30' 007° 30' 036° 06' 011° 12' 037° 30' 011° 12' 036° 55' 012° 00' thence direct to 180° Filfola Is. 5 miles to arrive off Marsamxett harbour (date).
U-boat patrols have been reported as being maintained to west south and east of Pantellaria.
(S.O.(S) Malta, 1821/23 to URSULA).

ILLUSTRIOUS. ILLUSTRIOUS, JERVIS, JANUS, JUNO, GREYHOUND left Malta 1930B/23.
(N.O.I.C. Malta, 1839/23).

Tobruk Operations. DIEGO sunk. My 1847/10. Maintenance (?work) and supplies of Army in Western Desert continued without interruption since 17/1.
(ii) Bombardment preliminary to attack on Tobruk carried out by TERROR and gunboat night of 20/21. Earlier bombardment stopped by bad weather.
(iii) Destroyers and REGENT to westwards of Tobruk patrolled to prevent communications. Italian schooner DIEGO sunk off Tobruk night of 21/22nd, ten prisoners in VAMPIRE.
(iv) FIONA and sweeper at Sollum ready to clear Tobruk Harbour immediately Army control established.
(v) One flight Fleet Air Arm aircraft based at Sollum as torpedo bomber striking force.
(vi) First reports indicate (?demolition) in Tobruk Harbour less than at first (corrupt group) anticipated.
(C.in C. Med., 1915/23).

S/M Obstructions. Greek submarines have reported a single wire scraping against hull in following positions with reference to Fano Island Light 326° 46, 309° 18½, 306° 13, 306° 10, 288° 22, 246° 8.
(Capt. S.1, 1945/23, to RORQUAL).

RORQUAL. Following from B.N.A. Athens. (Begins).
Ref. return of RORQUAL; Greek submarine will be southbound through straits of Otranto night of 30/31/1. After night 26/27 Greek submarine will operate all across Adriatic but south of 42 N. T.O.O. 2100/23. (Ends.)
(S.O.(S) Malta Force, 2215/23, to RORQUAL).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Japanese Ships.
YAMAHUSI MARU
GOSEI MARU

My 1118/16, 1052/21 (not to Admiralty) and 1054/21 (to Admiralty and F.O.C.N.I.N.) are being passed to C.O.S. Singapore.
Request confirmation that vessel referred to by Director of Censorship was GOSEIMARU as it is unusual for a Japanese vessel of this size to trade on East Indies Station.
Suggest it might be YAMAHUZI MARU which was heard calling MANTAI MARU (Basra to Rangoon) on 500 kc/s on 18th 19th and 20/1.
Request C.O.S. Singapore will report movements if known of both YAMAHUZI MARU and GOSEIMARU.
(C.in C. E.I., 0612/23, to Admty.)

Convoy W.S.5A.

Re Escort from Durban to Suez (C.in C. E.I. 0616/23) See Operations Volume.

Contraband Control Persian Gulf.

1. Introduction of navicert system for Iran and Iraq and exercise of contraband control in Persian Gulf is under consideration here. Under this system ships found without Ship Navicerts are sent in.
2. Number of ocean-going ships likely to be without Ship Navicert is small. Dhow trade may, however, be quite considerable. Larger dhows sail direct from Portuguese East Africa to places within the Gulf. Others pick cargoes landed from larger vessels at Hadhramaut, Muscat or various little known places in Gulf of Oman (and possibly Karachi.
3. Subject to your concurrence, proposed that representative of M.E.W. be sent to Bahrein to collect war trade intelligence.
4. It is presumed that you could conveniently undertake interception of ocean going ships with your present forces in Gulf without interfering with other important requirements.
5. Your 1746/25/8 and my 1701/6/10/1940, it is not considered necessary to establish a contraband control base in the Gulf itself. Ocean going vessels would be diverted to Karachi.
6. Dhows could be dealt with at Bahrein by M.E.W. representative there. Request your

/ remarks ..

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Contraband Control Persian Gulf (Contd.)	remarks on method of controlling dhow traffic and whether useful and feasible to man and arm a few fast dhows, if M.E.W. representative considers volume of trade warrants this. (Head of M. 1148/23 to C.in C. E.I.)
U.S.S.	S.S. CITY OF LINCOLN with mail, motor trucks, grain and general and S.S. THURLAND CASTLE with motor trucks, general, paper and wire joined U.S.S for Suez off Aden. Southern Red Sea escort for U.S.S, CARLISLE, CAPETOWN, KANDAHAR, KIMBERLEY, YARRA. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1211/23, to Admty.).
	23/1 arrival 0900Z CAPETOWN, departure 1040Z YARRA, 1240Z CAPETOWN, for U.S.S. (N.O.I.C. Aden, 1246Z/23, to Admty. etc.)
Force K.	Admty. 0300/22. Intend that FORMIDABLE and HAWKINS should form Force K. (C.in C. E.I., 1506Z/23 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown, etc.).
GALILEO GALILEI	Reported that prize proceedings were instituted at Aden against Italian S/M GALILEO GALILEI. If so report details and reasons as such action is seldom necessary when a man-of-war is captured. Did she carry any cargo? (D.E.W.D. 1645/23 to N.O.I.C. Aden).
Enemy Unit.	Your 1654/22. Request frequency used, also preamble and text of message. (D.D.I.C. 1832/23, to C.in C. E.I.)
Force K.	Your 1100/18. E.T.A. Aden. (C.in C. E.I., 1844Z/23 to C.in C. Med.) (See Operations Volume).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Intelligence. Far East week 14.
(c) Undeclared war between Thai and Indo China. Naval engagement in Gulf of Siam 17/1. French claim 3 Thai torpedo boats sunk, other craft damaged and no French casualties.
Siam Naval Action.
(d) Measures to sustain Japanese morale
(e) Marked increase Japanese Naval Operational W/T Traffic maintained since 16/1.
Raider. (f) Raider in Indian Ocean. Recent D/F fix showed supposed raider unit (1) Kergtolen 12/13 January. (2) S.E. of Durban 15/1 (3) 57° S. 10° W. 18/1. (4) 28° S. 10° W. 19/1.
Indo-China Shipping. (g) Shipping. First French ship to sail from Indo China under new agreement arrived Singapore 17/1.
(Capt. O.S., Singapore, 0222z/23).

N.E.I. Navy. Interview with Admiral Helfrich.
(C.in C. China 02352/23 to Admty.)
See Operations Volume.

Air Bases, Sembawang, Penang. My 0821/17. (?0841/17 Sembawang Air Base)
To ensure completion in time essential to produce outline of designs at once without awaiting Admiralty Officer.
Further essential to obtain steel works forthwith. (Proposals).
(C.in C. China, 09032/23, to Admty.)

America and West Indies.

DUCHESS OF YORK
ORONTES
WARWICK CASTLE Your 1242/13, 1356/15 and 1201/16. Numbers to be accommodated. Additional ships for T.C.9. (D.S.T. 1201/23 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)
See Operations Vol.

/ PATELLA, ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

PATELLA, explosion report. My 2256/20 Trinidad reports that further investigation suggests shock not due to enemy action. Possibly subterranean disturbance or quarry blasting Sombrero. (S.O.I., Kingson, 1024/23 to Admty.)

Suspected Raider. Your 1620/21. My 1146/18 was request for information re 22,000 tons ship, see N.A. Washington meassage 1001/8. (S.O.I. Kingston, 1249/23, to D.N.I. Ottawa).

COLD HARBOR. My 1424/22. S.S. COLD HARBOR will travel from Cape Henry to Cadiz via the regular winter ocean track for ships going to Gibraltar. From Cadiz to Barcelona and Marseilles, her speed and course will be subject to local conditions in those areas. (Head of M. 1414/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Curacao W/T. Your 1716/6. (Proposals to make use of Netherlands W/T Station, Curacao). Approved. (Head of M. 1527/23 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Use of D/F by Convoys. Your a137/21. Concur. (D.T.D. 1615/23 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

FORMOSA. Your 1628/18.10.40. New York reports Captain Swedish FORMOSA received telegram from owners in Sweden directing to proceed to Buenos Aires to load for Gothenborg and to watch his wireless for further instructions. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1710/23, to Admty.)

CONORIN. Intend sailing CONORIN for Freetown a.m./25 routed via Bermuda and refuelling Trinidad so that ship may be of greater operation value while in South Atlantic. B.T.A. Bermuda Trinidad. (F.O. 3 B.S. 1756/23, to C.in C. S.A.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

HOBART.	HOBART escorting ACRANOI and NIEUW AMSTERDAM departed Sydney for Auckland 23/1. (A.C.N.B. Melbourne, 08212/23, to Admty. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ELBE. Yokohama 22/1 ELBE reported loading approximately 4200 tons oil fuel. (Capt. O.S., Singapore, 00532/23 to Admty.)

CONSUL HORN. Reported loading fish at Kristiansund North on 17/1 and was expected at Aalesund on 19/1 spending 3 days loading there and then to proceed to Bergen and Hamburg with 7000 tons cod. (D.S. 507, 24/1).

ARKADIA. Totanbul 23/1 departures, German ARKADIA. (Galatz, 1512/23).

SPEZIA
ATLAS
TINOS Arrival 21/1. German steamer SPEZIA from Marseilles, 23/1 German Steamer ATLAS. Departure 22/1. German steamer SPEZIA carrying about 700 tons of coal for transhipment German Steamer TINOS. (Valencia, T.H.I., 2330/23).

CRETE Danish, 1603 tons, at Valencia, reported is to be employed in German interests between Spanish ports and Genoa. Has recently been docked. (D.S. 507).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BURMA. Consul Cadiz reports Italian Steamship BURMA blown ashore near Puerto Sant Maria night 21/22 will be total wreck. (N.A. Madrid, 1700/23, to Admty.)

MAURO CROCE. Arrival 23/1 Italian Ship MAURO CROCE from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1835/23).

NUMIDIA. Left Susak 21/1 for Trieste. (D.S. 507).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

23.1.1941.
Thursday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K. 10142/21. French ships should proceed Simonstown not Capetown, my 1159/7/11/1940 refers.
Ascertain probable time of arrival from S.O. Force K. Intercept off Simonstown or Capetown and divert.
(C.in C. S.A., 1011B/23 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

Adty. 1848/22. Summary of manifest should be signalled to Admiralty. Ship should be examined and then detained pending further instructions from Admiralty. (C.in C. S.A. 1105/23, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Admiralty 1848/22. JEAN L.D. has arrived Table Bay and is in hand for Contraband Examination by Union Authorities and with Union Defence Force Armed Guard on board. Intend to leave matters as they are in view of Union War Measure No.9 of 13/12/40 which gives powers of control over cargo in such ships.

Your 1011/23. In view of my 1932B/23 which has crossed your message, no action is being taken to sail French ships for Simonstown.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1845B/23, to C.in C. S.A.).

MENDOZA.

C.in C. S.A., 1125M/23. See South Atlantic.

Your 1262/22 and my 2301/22. MENDOZA's endurance 16 days at 12 knots my p.c. and s. are at 12002/23, 020° 37' S. 027° 06' W. 078° 12 knots, in company. Situation MENDOZA still friendly but no assistance to (?work) ship. 6 women and 5 children on board. (DORSETSHIRE, 1200Z/23 to Adty.)

CAMPANA.

My 1820/22. Source R/C 3 stated mutiny will occur in French ship CAMPANA on interception to avoid scuttling when Free French pendant will be hoisted on fore yard. Boarding would then be necessary.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1230/23 to R.A.S.A.D.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 23.1.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1006. 54° - 54° 30' N., west of 17° W.; indefinite position. (D.S. 506). (C.in C. W.A. 1057/23).

1724. D.F., Italian U/B, probably southward bound, approx. 54.30 N., 22° W., unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1812/23).

1302. 57° N. 21° W., Italian U/B, indefinite position (D.S. 507).

Havana. U/B reported in 21.58 N., 81.23 W. (N.A. Washington, 1055/23) See Operations Against Vichy French.

Le Havre. Salvage by Germans of French submarines at Le Havre and other French ports. (N.A. Washington, 1615/22, see Home Commands, Enemy Intelligence).

Sail HIGHLANDER and destroyers at Milford Haven to hunt U Boats reported S.W. of Lands End. Exercise Victor. (C.in C. W.A. 1112/23 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Employment of Capital ships in the North Sea.

A meeting was held at the Admiralty today, to discuss the employment of capital ships in the North Sea in case of invasion.

Operation N.C.

This operation was carried out this evening. Harwich was closed today owing to fog.

8

British Air Activity.

6 Beauforts of Coastal Command attacked Lorient this evening. One Beaufort on R.C. bombed the oil refinery at St. Nazaire today. On account of bad weather, bomber Command carried out no operations last night and today.

8

Enemy Air Activity.

S.S. RANJA, one of the Norwegian ships which broke out of the Skagerrak yesterday (See Operation "Rubble") was bombed and machine gunned today on her way across the North Sea and had one casualty but no damage. C.S.15 in NAIAD with AURORA was also bombed this afternoon whilst engaged in the operation, but no damage occurred.

Mining.

S.S CORHEATH
S.S. TASMANIA.

S.S. CORHEATH was mined and sunk off Margate this evening. S.S. TASMANIA was damaged by a British Mine p.m. today off Aberdeen, but reached port under her own steam.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

Weather curtailed flying operations today.

South Atlantic.

Further bearings of enemy units have been obtained. One was estimated to be within 150 miles of 50.00 S., 17.35 W. at 2137/23Z which might be unit "C".

Proposals for the shipping required for the embarkation of the French Senegalese Brigade have been made to C.in C. S.A. by D. of S.T.

Mediterranean.

To prevent enemy air attack on the Malta to Alexandria convoy R.A.F. Blenheims bombed enemy aerodrome at Maritza, landing grounds at Sidi ~~(Rhodes)~~ and Magran, Soluch and Maraua.

~~Wellingtons bombed Maritza aerodrome, Rhodes last night.~~

The Greek S/M PAPANICOLIS claims to have sunk 3 Italian ships today.

East Indies.

Raider in Indian Ocean.

S.S. MANDASOR reports being bombed early this morning, apparently about midway between Madagascar and Ceylon. A subsequent cancellation of the distress message is not considered genuine.

V.Force.

SYDNEY, CANBERRA, LEANDER and COLOMBO have been allotted areas to search. Only the 2 former have serviceable aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

KING GEORGE V, battleship, arrived at Chesapeake Bay today with Lord Halifax, newly appointed Ambassador to U.S.A.

Atlantic Convoys.

Mr. McDonald, Canadian Navy Minister stated today that some 3,770 vessels, carrying a deadweight tonnage of 22,260,000 were convoyed from the American side of the Atlantic in 1940.

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MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Loch Ewe. Proposed inclusion in W.A.Command.

As Loch Ewe is now a Convoy assembly port and will be used very largely by convoys and escorts entirely under my control, propose that the boundary between W.A. and O and S. Commands be altered to include it in the former, under the Greenock Sub-Command.

2. Consider that such a change would simplify arrangements for defence and administration of the port.
(C.in C. W.A. 1007/24 to Admty).

Rescue Tugs. Proposed Armament.

Your 1915/23. It is proposed that rescue tugs operated in N.W.Approaches should be fitted with Holman projectors, Schermuly pistols, and P A C rockets. When possible tugs will be operated in pairs observing that two tugs are usually required to get a ship in.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1536/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Submarine Depot., Ships.

F.O.(S) 2303/23 Para.(c).
MAIDSTONE is continuously employed on maintenance work for destroyers and cannot be released without relief. The congestion in the repair yards is far more acute than when WOOLWICH was withdrawn last September and no alternative facilities for destroyers are available anywhere.
(C.in C. H.F. ?2306/24 to Admty).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/24.
(D.C. 1147/24).
At 2330/24.
(D.C. 2355/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Operation "Victor".

A.C.O.S. 0839/24.

Admty. 0150/24, 0752/24, 0831/24, 0835/24, 1029/24, 1442/24.

Air Ministry. 1128/24.

ARETHUSA 0749/24.

AURORA 1008/24.

N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1015/24, 1545/24.

D.C. 1807/24.

D.S. 1312/24.

V.A.Dover 0925/24, 1106/24, 1504/24, 1828/24.

GALATEA 1020/24.

N.O.I.C. Glasgow 1010/24, 1017/24, 2140/24.

F.O.I.C. Greenock 1205/24.

N.O.I.C. Hartlepool 1701/24.

F.O.I.C. Harwich 1016/24.

C.in C. H.F. 1015/24, 1516/24, 1530/24.

F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0751/24, 0813/24, 0828/24, 0835/24, 0900/24, 1004/24, 1103/24, 1245/24, 1304/24, 1310/24.

F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2200/24.

C.in C. Nore 0735/24, 0832/24, 0857/24, 0907/24, 0943/24, 1509/24, 1055/24, 1231/24, 1525/24, 1575/24, 1825/24, 2007/24, 2139/24, 2250/24, 2358/24.

F.O.I.C. Portland 1024/24, 1030/24, 1200/24, 1509/24, 2103/24, 2104/24.

C.in C. Portsmouth 1000/24, 1133/24, 1137/24 1146/24, 1020/24, 1148/24, 1457/24, 1606/24, 1608/24, 1640/24, 1745/24, 1800/24, 2004/24.

C.in C. Rosyth 0010/24, 0842/24, 0900/24, 0920/24, 0931/24, 1055/24, 1145/24, 1300/24, 1400/24, 0705/24, 0734/24, 1229/24, 0654/24, 1200/24, 1526/24, 1620/24, 1720/24, 2010/24, 2200/24.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K. (Contd.)

Operation "Victor". (Contd.)

Naval Umpire, Rosyth 0820/24, 0836/24, 1130/24.

REPULSE 0708/24.

ROYAL SOVEREIGN 0935 /24, 1115/24.

VANESSA 2135/24.

VANITY 0946/24.

C.in C. W.A. 0015/24, 0915/24, 0920/24, 1305/24, 1800/24, 1845/24, 1847/24, 1925/24, 2004/24, 2025/24, 2345/24.

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0828/24.

MAORI 1152/24.

Town-Class Destroyer 1218/24.

EDINBURGH 1609/24.

War Office (Heetool 3) 1640/24.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KELLY,
KASHMIR,
JUPITER,
JERSEY.

Arrived Plymouth 1255/23.
(C.in C. W.A. 0025/24).

BEDOUIN,
SOMALI,
MATABLE,
TARTAR.

Arrived Scapa 0520.
(A.C.O.S. 0831/24).

BOREAS.

Sailed from London 0900/24 for Sheerness.
(F.O.I.C. London 1032/24 to C.in C. Nore).

ORONTES.

Your 1544/23 and 1608/23. D.S.T.O.Glasgow informs me that ORONTES cannot arrive at Tail of Bank before 1100 today and will then require about 1200 tons of fuel. Fuelling should be completed by about 1800.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1045/24 to Admty).

Force Z.
Escort.

Your 1907/23. Approved if destroyers are available after meeting your other commitments.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1138/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

ESPERANCE BAY.

Proceed as convenient so as to anchor off Methil before dark today. Sail from Methil so as to arrive off Tyne at 1500/25.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1157/24 to ESPERANCE BAY).

Cancel my 1157/24.
Proceed as convenient so as to anchor off Methil before dark tomorrow. Sail from Methil so as to arrive off Tyne at 1500/26.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1755/24 to ESPERANCE BAY).

INGLEFIELD.

My 1030/22. Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to fog.
(C.in C. Nore 1217/24 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

WOLFE,
CIRCASSIA,
CHITRAL,
LETITIA.

WOLFE and CIRCASSIA leave Clyde 1500/26, WOLFE to Reykjavik and N.P.43, CIRCASSIA to N.P.42 both keeping to Northern end of patrol lines until 1500/30. Routes. CHITRAL and LETITIA to leave Southern ends of N.P.41 and N.P.42 respectively to arrive Reykjavik 1400/30. F.O. Iceland is requested to complete LETITIA with fuel and sail her for Halifax and to fuel CHITRAL if necessary and sail her for Clyde. Route. C.in C. H.F. is requested to arrange inward and outward escort from Minches to 015° West if available.
(V.A.N.P. 1230/24).

MOOLTAN
WHITSHED.

MOOLTAN sailed for London escorted by WHITSHED. WHITSHED subsequently proceeding to Harwich.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1355/24).

J.3968.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1043/22.
Confirmed that gun trials should be carried out subject to concurrence of C.in C. H.F.
(D.O.D.H. 1528/24).

C.in C. Rosyth 1545/23. E.T.A. May Island 1215/30. Consequent on this it will be necessary to change firing area in Admiralty 1640/4. J.3968 intend to carry out gun trials 1400 to 1800/28 Liverpool Bay, 1400 to 1800/29 North Minch onwards, 0900 to 1200/30 off East Coast of Scotland between Aberdeen and May Island.
(F.O. Liverpool 1614/24 to Admiralty).

Northern
Patrol.

Trawler lines tonight.
One Trawler.
(A.C.O.S. 1539/24).

5th
M.L.F.

It is requested that boats of 5th M.L.F. now at Dartmouth be sailed for their operational base under the Command of S.O. of F. when ready for service.
(R.A.C.F. 1746/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

VULCAN. When ready for sea C.in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail VULCAN for Alexandria via the Cape routed as follows, arranging with C.in C. Western Approaches as necessary.

2. U.K. to Freetown calling at Ponta Delgada for fuel. Onward route to be arranged by C.in C. concerned.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1833/24.)

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE. Scapa Flow departure 0130 C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA and ECHO.
(A.C.O.S. 0149/24).

Expect fighter escort by pairs of Blenheims relieving every two hours from 1030 to dusk.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0350/24 to F.O.I.C.15 C.S.)

E/B reported by aircraft in position 058045'N., 0030 35'E at 1050 steering West.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1436/24 to C.S.15).

Enemy bombing in 58° 35'N., 3° 26'E., course 100°, speed 29 knots.
(C.S.15 1620/24).

Provide what cover you can for RUBBLE during the night and be in position to cover Eastern ships at daylight tomorrow Saturday.
(C.in C. H.F. 1902/24 to C.S.15).

My 1902/24. Request Fighter Protection from daylight.
(C.in C. H.F. 2027/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

On reaching 058° 48'N., 002° 00'W. at 0345, intend to alter course to 108 speed of advance 20 knots, to cover your return. Destroyers are escorting TAURUS and TAISHAM to Kirkwall.
(C.S.18 2351/24 to C.S.15).

Operation N.C. — Being carried out. Zero hour 1930.
(V.A.Dover 1231/24).

Submarines.

UNDAUNTED, MINERVE, TORBAY. — My 1742/25.
Add UNDAUNTED and MINERVE escorted by WHITE BEAR arrive Dundee A.M. amend movement of TORBAY to read leaves Rosyth a.m. unescorted for Dundee thence to Clyde escorted by WHITE BEAR.
(F.O.S. 0011/24).

OSIRIS. — Contact not made with convoy. Dome forced up by obstruction off Dungeness. Am unable to dive. Am remaining 4 miles south west Dungeness. Request escort.
(OSIRIS 0400/24 to Capt: S.S.)

A M.T.B. is coming to escort you. Trawler will be at S.W.Gate Buoy.
(N.O.I.C. Dover 0815/24 to OSIRIS).

My 1401 and my 1449. OSIRIS touched submerged object about 0200 this morning when approximtely two miles south of Dungeness in Tug. Asdic compartment flooded and unable to dive. Ship never made contact with convoy C.E.23 and anchored until visibility improved.
(V. A.Dover 1711/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Intend to sail OSIRIS escorted by GULLFOSS at 0600 tomorrow for Sheerness. E.T.A. 1200. Fighter protection is being requested.
(N.O.I.C.Dover 1545/24).

TORBAY. Sails Rosyth 0520 to be off Tay Bar at 1200.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0526/24 to WHITE BEAR).

Proceed into Dundee.
(S.9. 0931/24 to TORBAY.)

My 0933/24. R/V with WHITE BEAR at eastern buoy of QZS 162 for passage to Clyde.
(S.9 1107/24 to TORBAY).

Sailed TORBAY escorted by WHITE BEAR for Clyde. E.T.A. 1400/26.
(S.9 1357/24).

SUNFISH. Leaves Blyth 1100/24 unescorted on surface Northward.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1058/24).

TUNA. F.O.S. 1642/18. Cancel para.C and substitute Para.C. Intend F.O.C.N.A. shall assume operational control of TUNA while on North Atlantic station and that he should be responsible for keeping her informed of movements that affect her during the same period. C.in C. W.A. is requested to keep TUNA informed of movements of own and enemy forces while on the home station. S.2. is to indicate time at which TUNA enters the North Atlantic station.
(F.O.S. 1132/24 to S.2.)

Positions. At 0800/25 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1654/24, 1741/24 and 1959/24.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

818.additional patrols being flown today.
STAB, BERT, HORNLI, S.A.2.
0800/24.

STAB and BERT in operation since 0900.
S.A.2 took off at 1030.
HORNLI will probably not be flown owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1040/24 to C.S.15., C.S.18).

My 1040/24. HORNLI cancelled.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1240/24 to C.S.15, C.S.18).

Shooting down of own aircraft.

Admiralty's 1221/23. A Board of Enquiry will assemble at Lowestoft Naval Base at 1000/26. Request an Air Force Officer be appointed as member of the Board to be junior to a Captain R.N. of seniority 3rd October 1940. and that witnesses from 139 Squadron Bomber Command may attend.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1000/24 to Air Ministry).

Admiralty T.O.O. 1221/23. Bomber Command should detail R.A.F. Officer as member of Board of Services.
(Air Ministry 1230/24 to Bomber Command).

Our X 989 24/1. Board of Enquiry will assemble at Lowestoft Naval base at 1000/26. The R.A.F. Officer you appoint as member of Board should be Junior to a Captain R.N. seniority 3/10/40. Witnesses from 139 Squadron should attend.
(Air Ministry 1806/24 to H.Q.B.C.)

A.660/24/1. Pilot of Wellington A/C report being fired on by heavy A.A. from Lowestoft harbour at 1130/18 when flying at 700 feet in poor visibility. Although aircraft's undercarriage was lowered and recognition signal was fired A.A. continued. No damage to aircraft or injury to crew. Request you investigate whether Naval units were concerned and if so explain reasons for opening and maintaining fire.
(F.O.6. Air Ministry 1435/24 to A.

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

R/C Aircraft. AP/784/24/1. Your X.819 23/1 addressed to H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Presume it is realised that no long range Spitfire will be available in United Kingdom to replace P.9551 for at least 3 weeks and that Genoa-Spezia and Toulon are out of range of other types photographic Spitfires available here.
(H.Q.C.C. 1035/24 to Air Ministry).

Lorient. AP/786/24/1. Available aircraft No.217 Squadron to attack tonight submarines in naval Dockyard Lorient. Alternative Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1132/24 to 15 Group, St. Eval).

Enemy Air Activity.

MOSTYN. Engine and rudder wrecked in position 054° 30'N., 014° 52' W. Cargo pitwood salvable. Picked up entire crew at 1540 two lascars wounded. Reported German aircraft had British markings.
(PHOEBE 0131/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

Proceed to assist. Tug SALVONIA also proceeding.
(C.in C. W.A. 1729/24 to SKEENA).

LURIGETHAN. At 1835/23 in 53° 47'N., 15° 19'W. On fire in Engine-Room and No.4 Hold. Entire crew in Swedish MILOS proceeding to Oban, 2 slightly wounded. Ship may be salvable.
(PHOEBE 0131/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

LANGLEEGORSE. Your 0037/24. Have found no trace of LANGLEEGORSE position indicated. Intend to continue searching in area until dark.
(SKEENA 1315/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

C.S.15. Enemy bombing in 58° 35'N., 3° 26'E., course 100°, speed 29 knots.
(C.S.15 1620/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Aberdeen Area.	Presence of many floating mines suspected between Rattray Head and Milton Ness. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1006/24 to C.in C. Rosyth).
	5th M.S.F. is to carry out Search of East side of dividing line A Z 787 between Aberdeen and Kinnairds Head forthwith. (C.in C. Rosyth 1043/24 to M.S.5.)
Aircraft Minelaying.	For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1131/24 to 16 Group M.Coates).
INTREPID.	My 1203/23. Regret dense fog again will cause further delay. (F.O. Humber 1204/24).
Off Wick.	Floating mine in latitude 058 degs. 22' 30" N., 002 degs. 34'W. Have expended all available ammunition cannot sink it. (PIROUETTE 1245/24 to A.C.O.S.)
B.S.50.	Postponed on account of weather. Am proceeding to Immingham. (TEVIOT BANK 1437/24).
S.S. TASMANIA.	(6405 tons) struck a mine 2 miles off Aberdeen p.m./24 but reached Methil under her own steam, damaged. (D.O.R.)
	With ATTENTIF as escort proceeding to Leith. Owing to heavy swell at entrance consider operation of entering Aberdeen dangerous. TASMANIA using hand steering. Now making no water. Damaged and holed on water line under port quarter. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1238/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Surface Unit in Skagerrak.

By D/F at 1015 indicates German surface unit (destroyer or larger) in the Skagerrak, approx. position 58° 20'N., 9° 20' East.
(D.D.I.C. 1055/24).

By D/F at 1303/24. Position of unknown enemy unit was 57° N., 10° E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1333/24).

By D/F on 5915 dc/s at 1555/24. Position of enemy unit was 57° 50'N., 10° E. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1635/24).

Fish Cargo from Aalesund.

Small Norwegian fishing vessel arrived Thershaven today with crew of two and 8 refugees onboard. They report when they sailed from Aalesund on 22/1 the Dutch CONSUL HORN was about to leave for Bergen with 5,000 tons of Salt fish destined for Germany.
(N.O.I.C. Faroes 1645/24.)

Miscellaneous.

Harwich closed.

Port still closed owing to fog.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1300/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

North East Coast, independent sailings.

Vessels bound from Firth of Forth to Dundee and vice versa are to proceed independently and are to be sailed at such times that they arrive in port before nightfall.
(D.T.D. 0009/24 to N.C.S.O's Methil and Dundee).

Routes.

Your 1536/23. No. (Routeing of ships through area North of 61° North., and East of 25° 00'West.
(D.T.D. 1155/24 to S.O.(I) Gibraltar).

Reporting of Suspicious Ships.

Admiralty Message E.K. When a warship or merchant ship is sighted which is suspected of hostile intent a distress message in accordance with D.M.S.B. Article 16 should be made (Admiralty Message CJ also refers), the word "Suspicious" being added as the "Nature of attack". Example QQQQ de GBTT 55° 07'North., 19° 20'West, QUEEN MARY Suspicious. Message EJ was not made by W/T.
(D.S.D. 1535/24 to All British M.S's.)

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.94.

Sailed from Methil 1400/23. No ships from Tyne Area.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0044/24).

E.N.61.

(A) 0100/24. (b) H.M.T's ELLESMERE (S O) SALTARELLO. Additional escort HASTINGS. (c) 13 ships. No ships for Clyde. 6 with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 0131/24).

F.S.94.

Code word for F.S.94 South of Tyne, OCEAN.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0509/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.C.277. (a) 0233/24 Jan.
(b) VANQUISHER, WINCHELSEA and GENTAIN.
(c) 6 ships (two with kites) R/V with O.B. 277 in Rothesay Bay.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0600/24).

F.S.95. GARTH. Proceed from Methil at 0800/25 to Sheerness Adjust speed to overhaul F.S.95 by 0800/26 and act as additional escort when in company. F.S.95 due off Aldeburgh 0600/26 speed 6 knots. Escort F.S.95 is VANITY FLEETWOOD, VERSATILE, WALLACE, S.O.VANITY.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0917/24 to GARTH).

O.B.O.277. Sailed 0700/24/1. Escort VERBENA. 12 ships. 8 ships carried kites.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 0932/24).

Sailed H.M.S. CORSAIR 0900/24 to R/V with O.B.277. E.T.A.Trinidad.
(N.O.I.C. Belfast 0946/24 to C.in C. A.W.I)

O.B.278. Sailed KINGCUP escorting O.B.278.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1041/24).

W.N.74. 1000/24 H.M.Trawlers LADY ROSEMARY, SARABANDE 8 ships. Six ships with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Greenock 1101/24).

F.N. and F.S. Movements to 1200/25, may be restricted through fog. SHEARWATER with F.N.90 thence to Humber. PUFFIN Humber to Harwich with F.S.95. F.S.92 expected to anchor Barrow Deep for night 23/24. F.S.94 Flamboro Head 1200/24. F.S. 95 due Flamboro Head 0330/25. F.N.90 due Flamboro Head 1200/24. F.N.91 due sail Southend 0930/25.
(C.in C. Nore, 1200/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.90. Intend to sail S.S. SHOALFISHER with 6" mounting in F.N.90 for Methil.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1202/24 to C.in C. Rosyth, etc.)

F.S.94.
PUFFIN. Request you will sail PUFFIN to form additional escort for F.S.94 due Outer Dowsing 1800/24.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1226/24 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

O.B.O.278. 0500/25/1. One ship SOPHOCLES.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1231/24).

W.N.75 (O). Sailed 1430/24. H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY six ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1435/24).

F.S.95. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1515/24 to Admty etc.)

O.B.278. Sailed 1300/24. 3 ships 9 knots. No kites.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1517/24).

Liverpool portion O.B.278 is cancelled. Proceed with O.B.M.278 to Clyde R/V then return to base.
(C.in C. W.A. 1749/24 to DERBY COUNTY).

F.N.90. M.L.169 sailed to join F.N.90.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 2013/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.91. Commodore in UMVUMA. Vice Commodore in H.M.S. MALVERNIAN. Weigh at 0930/25. Number of ships 49. Additional escort WIDGEON.
(C.in C. Nore 2130/24 to VANESSA, PYTCHLEY, LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND.

O.B.277. H.M. Yacht CORSAIR returned to Belfast unable to contact O.B.277.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2230/24).

O.B.277.
O.B.279. My 0820/23 and 0945/24. H.M.Y. CORSAIR and O.B.277. Not met. Former returned Belfast. Propose sailing her with O.B.279 E.T.A. Trinidad.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2232/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

12 M.Vs. Intend sailing 1730/25 via Saint Catherines and Nab Tower 12 merchant ships including 2 large tankers for onward routeing 4 to Shoreham one to Littlehampton one for Poole. E.T.A. Nab 0830/26 escort LORD ESSENDON and CORNELIAN.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 2330/24 to C.in C. Plymouth).

W.N.75. Sailed A/S trawlers BERKSHIRE, ST. APOLLO for W.N.75, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/25.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 2359/24.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

Escort Groups.

Orders for sailing of Escort Groups.

2nd No.	Out Convoy	Feb.	1st	Meet	BXH.104.
7th	OB.281	"	"	"	H.X.105.
4th	OB.282	"	3rd	"	S.L.63.
8th	OG.52	"	5th	"	52 and SLS.63.
1st	OB.283	"	7th	"	H.X.106.
5th	OB.284	"	9th	"	S.C.21.
3rd	OB.285	"	11th	"	H.X.107.
6th	OB.286	"	13th	"	S.L.64.
2nd	OG.53	"	15th	"	H.G.53 & SLS 64.

2. BHX 104, is an extra convoy. HAVELOCK HESPERUS HARVESTER will be required to sail on 1/2 to meet BHX 104 and act as additional escort.
(C.in C. W.A. 1129/24.)

O.G.51. (a) 2200/26.
(b) Not known.
(c) 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1455/24 to C.in C. W.A.)

O.G.M.51. 1715/25. Not known. 2 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1820/24).

O.G.51. If ready A/S Trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Gibraltar in O.G.51.
(C.in C. W.A. 1921/24 to N.O.I.C. Oban)
(Cancelled C.in C. W.A. 1301/25).

S.L.62. Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 2001/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

W.S.6. Following are proposed embarkation arrangements.
(D. of S.T. 0201/24).

ORONTES. Intend to sail ORONTES escorted by O.R.P. GARLAND and LEOPARD at 2000 today in accordance with a.m. 1137/24, 1544/23 and 1627/21.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1514/24).

MOST SECRET.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

WAR DIARY.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

OSIRIS.	Dome forced up by obstruction off Dungeness. Am unable to dive. Am remaining 4 miles S.W. of Dungeness. Request escort. (OSIRIS 0400/24 to Capt: S.5.)
PORT HUNTER.	My 1215/22/1. PORT HUNTER does not expect to sail till 2200/25 owing to damage sustained. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1040/24 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).
MERIONES.	Situation unchanged. Vessel still aground. Thick fog. (N.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1130/24).
BULLFINCH.	(Cable ship, 433 tons). Slightly damaged by gale at Greenock from 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
GEORGETOWN.	(Destroyer). Slight damage by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LADY LILIAN.	(A/S Trawler). Hull damaged by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
ANGLE.	(A/S Trawler) Hull damaged by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
ORCHIS.	(Corvette) Extensive hull damage by gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

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Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

TEDWORTH.	(Diving Ship) Extensive hull damage, main pipes punctured, in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
CHEVREUIL.	(French Minesweeper) Hull damaged, Frames and bulkhead buckled, in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. Will probably require docking. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LE TRIOMPHANT.	(French Light Cruiser). Hull damaged and frame buckled in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. Will probably require docking. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LARKSPUR.	(Corvette) Side slightly damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
BREDA.	(Yacht) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
TUSCARORA.	(A/S Yacht) Slightly damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
NORWICH CITY.	(A/S Trawler) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
GIRL ETHEL.	(Wooden Drifter) Hull very extensively damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

SEAMAN.	(Rescue Tug) Damaged in gale at Greenock 1200/21 to 1800/22. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
LEOPARD.	(French Light Cruiser) Has requested repairs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
ROSEMARY.	(A/S Vessel) Unseaworthy. Has requested repairs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
HEATHER.	(Corvette) Unseaworthy. Has requested repairs. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1455/24).
WIRTA.	(Finnish 4028 tons). Your 1543/23 and my 1153/23. Grounded in 064 08'N., 022 04'W., at 1100 today in fog. Have placed armed guard on board. Ship is damaged and it will be necessary to discharge large part of cargo before effort can be made to refloat her. (F.O. Iceland 1651/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Intelligence, Dakar Casablanca.

Following received from Dakar; (a) dated 17/1 CHELMA has sailed to French Guinea. Lieut. De La Tour arrived 16/1 with native troops. Following three ships are now in Dakar, RICHELIEU, MONTCALM, GEORGES LEYGUES, destroyers MALIN and FANTASQUE, S/Ms and many smaller vessels. S/Ms and smaller vessels are being used for escort duty. Personnel of naval establishment is estimated at 4000. (b) Dated 21/1. S.S. FORT DE DOUAUMERO arrived from South. Following from Casablanca dated 17/1. Tanker FIRUZ sailing 18/1 for Bene near Marseilles with Alpine troops and field guns. Troopships escorted by French warships reported to be "moving South of Dakar".
(N.A. Washington, 1900/24 to Admty).

North Atlantic.

Italian U-Boat Las Palmas.

Italian S/M left here midnight G.M.T. 22/1. It is said action took place 4 days before arrival Las Palmas and that Second in Command killed in action, not Commanding Officer.
(Consul, Las Palmas, 1005/24 to Admty)
(F.O.C. N.A. 1707/24 to N.A. Station and 1723/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

My 1800/23 not to Las Palmas. Min. of For. Aff. explains verbally to Embassy that five days repair period given in their note is from date of note (22/1). To that 24 hours must be added and that time allowed will therefore xpire at 05350/2
(N.A. Madrid 1341/24 to Admty).

OTUS.

Position of submarine at 0800/24 and movements for the following 24 hours as follows:
(a) OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A, 1444/24).

NORTHERN PRINCE.

Admty 1628/23 and 2306/22. Anticipate sailing NORTHERN PRINCE for Suez p.m./26 bunkering Capetown. Destroyer escort will be provided for 24 hours.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1600/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 24.1.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Air Report. Daily Summary Operations. 1 surface recco. East. 1 routine A.E. Patrol. Flying curtailed owing to weather conditions. Area covered Spartel to 4 West. (200 Group 1735/24).

A/C Gibraltar. Now reported that 1 Glen Martin aircraft flew over Gibraltar a.m. 20/1 and was driven off by A/A fire. No bombs were dropped. (D.S. 508, 25/1).

South Atlantic.

South Africa Mail Ships. My 2247/18 P.S.T.O. Bombay in his 1317/20 has stated that no suitable ships can be sent from India to replace HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN. Request report whether any suitable vessels available locally e.g. India/South Africa mail ships. (D.S.T. 0202/24 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Enemy Unit. My 2352/23. Add following bearings:- Freetown 290/4. Ascension 342/3. Bermuda 047/3. (D.D.I.C. 0555/24 to C. in C. S.A).

D/F bearings indicate enemy surface unit within 150 miles of 005 degs. 00'South 017 degs. 35'West at 2137/23 Z. This might be unit C. (C. in C. S.A., 0951N/24 to S.A. Station).

My 2352/23 and 0555/24. Enemy surface unit considered to be within about 150 miles of position 5° 00'S. and 17° 30'W. at 2137/23 G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 0955/24 to C. in C.S.A. etc.).

WAIMARAMA. Southbound ship crossing 20° North for Cape. (Approx. Noon Position 25/1 and Route). (D.T.D. 1230/24 to S.A. Station).

/KENYA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

KENYA.)
SOBIESKI.)

My 1721/18 and Admty 1750/17. Intend sailing escorted by DUNEDIN. Time and route and E.T.A. Gibraltar. A/S escort VELOX, VIDETTE until (date).
(C. in C. S.A. 1415/24 amended 2047/25 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume.

French Senegalese Brigade.

Your 1615/21/12. Proposals for embarkation (D.S.T. 2003/24 to C. in C. S.A.).
See Operations Volume.

D.S.

Expected time of arrival Freetown 0730N/26. (Capt. D.S, 1655/24 to C. in C. S.A).

FURIOUS.

Admiralty 1226/23 and 1826/22. Unless considerable delay can be accepted essential FURIOUS should be berthed alongside under crane as ship crane will be fully employed for at least 4½ days in disembarking aircraft and gear brought from Freetown and embarking stores and provisions. Only 12 boilers serviceable - but these should enable 22 knots to be maintained to limit of endurance. Request ship be allowed to proceed with escort at best speed rather than long passage in slow convoy. Most desireble fuel Gibraltar. Following urgently required as emergency aid to ventilation vide C. in C. South Atlantic's 1621N/14. Essential following long overdue stores reach ship before sailing. If 12 days or more in harbour propose leave in two watches.
(FURIOUS, 1828/24 to Admty).

Free French Shipping.

Following for Claud Adams. Allocation of Free French ships. Mentions FORT DE TROYON, TOMBOCTOU, TOUAREG, CAPO OLMO and INDOCHINOIS.
(D.S.T. 2308/24 to N.C.S.O. Duala).

BRIDGEWATER to overtake ATLAS.

My 1931/23 and my 0801/24 to Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos, and Director of Nigerian Marine, Lagos 1017/24. As tug IVES has no W/T raise steam as convenient and proceed 25/1 overtake ATLAS and act as (corrupt group) (corrupt group) until S.S. GOVERNOR met. When tow is proceeding satisfactorily return to Lagos.
(C. in C. S.A. 2357N/24 to BRIDGEWATER).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Shipping Resources Port and Transit Committee.	Importance of developing resources of Egyptian ports. Port and Transit Committee set up. Questions of finance and administration. (C. in C. Med. 0929/24 to Admty).
Operation "Inspection".	0600/23. ILEX HERO BONAVENTURE AJAX ORION and YORK sailed. (S.B.N.O. Suda Bay 1057/24).
Ammunition.	Your 2313/20 Para. 1. 2 guns and 14 loose barrels embarked in R.89 and R. 90 leaving U.K. shortly. (D.T.S.D. 1156/24 to C. in C. Med).
Malta Rumours of Attack.	Turkish Military Attache in Rome reported to Ankara on 19/1 that he has heard rumours of an impending attack against Malta by 1 or 2 Infantry Divisions and 2 Regiments of Parachute troops now in Sicily. Reliability unassessed. (S.O.I Alexandria 1245/24 to Admty, C. in C. Med, V.A. Malta);
Air Report.	Operational Summary No. 228 up to 1200 hrs. 24/1/1941. Egypt night 22/23. 2 Wellingtons unable to locate Maritza aerodrome owing
Rhodes bombed.	to weather bombed Rhodes harbour causing fires and explosions on the jetty and demolishing buildings alongside.
Apollonia and Derna bombed.	Day 23/1. Apollonia and Derna landing grounds each bombed by 3 Blenheims. 4 explosions and small fires in barrack area Apollonia bombs burst among buildings at Derna. Blenheims dropped small bombs among aircraft on Maraua landing ground
Benhazi Recco.	details awaited. Reconnaissances reported 3 large 9 medium 3 small merchant ships in Bengasi.
Malta Defence	Reply to Admty 1756/18 (C. in C. Med. 1257/24 See Mediterranean Volume.
Kabret.	Re M.L.C. Base. (C. in C. Med. 1615/24 to Admty). See Mediterranean Volume.

/Convoy.....

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Convoy B.N.13.	Arrived Suez 24/1. less STAR OF HEX and ADA. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1738/24).
Convoy A.S.13.	Convoy sailing telegram, part 2.A.S.13 150924 (14 ships). (Athens 1801/24 to Admty).
Air Report.	Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 24/1. All times G.M.T. 0510 to 1320 Sunderland despatched to cover track of ILLUSTRIOUS proceeding to Alexandria Arrived first position and proceeded along track to second position without sighting. ILLUSTRIOUS presumed proceeded at greater speed than anticipated. 0920 to 1317 Glenn Martin photo recco. Gela Sciacca Castel Vetrano Syracuse. Syracus aerodrome not located. Port no shipping 30 seaplanes. 0941 to 1006 2 formations enemy aircraft approached within 10 miles (NT sic) Grand Harbour and withdrew presumed recco. with fighter protection. 9 fighters up no interception. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1840/24).

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MANDASOR bombed.

British ship MANDASOR reported being bombed in longitude 061 E. at 0545 G.M.T. 24/1 lat. corupt but is believed to be 004° 18'S. There is no shipping south MANDASOR in long. 061° E.
(C. in C. E.I. 0752Z/24 to E. E. Indies Sqdn)

My 0752/24. (1) British ship BEACON STREET also reports a suspicious ship in sight in position 017° 00' South 041° 36' East at 0349 G.M.T./24. No cancellation yet received. BEACON STREET did not make report in form of Q. or R. distress message.
(C. in C. E.I, 0846Z/24 to E.I Sqdn).

My 0752/24 Seychelles has been called MANDASOR by W/T. Call sign GCXB made at 1016Z/24. My message 0545 G.M.T. now cancelled (2) cancellation not at present considered genuine (3) MANDASOR left Calcutta 14th to pass Dondra Head 18th due Durban forth routed through position 017° 085° 006° North 082° 001° South 076° 009° 046° 027° 038° at 10 knots. (4) Seychelles will be instructed to give GCXB the impression that we consider cancellation genuine. SYDNEY may be able to D/F her at about 1400Z/24.
(C. in C. E.I. 1210Z/24 to E.I. Sqdn).

SYDNEY.
CANBERRA.
LEANDER.
COLOMBO.

My 0752/24.
(i) Following movements have been ordered.
(a) SYDNEY left Seychelles at 1000z/24 to search in supposed position of raider at about 27 knots.
(b) CANBERRA from position 005° 20'N. 080° 25'E. at 0915z/24 to pass through 1½° channel at 25 knots.
(c) LEANDER sails from Colombo at about 1130z/24 for 1½° channel at 25 knots.
(d) COLOMBO from position 003° 45' S. 052° 00'E. at 1045z/24 to position 001° S. 059° E at about 14½ knots to cover shipping.
(ii) Note - (a) SYDNEY and CANBERRA have serviceable aircraft but LEANDER has not.
(b) COLOMBO has engine trouble and her maximum speed is not known. (iii) Ships in parargraph (i) are to decode all addresse to Force V.
(C. in C. E.I. 1238z/24 to E.I. Sqdn).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

My 1238/24 after passing 1½° of channel CANBERRA is to proceed towards position equator 070° East.
(C. in C. E.I. 1432Z/24 to Force V).

KANIMBLA. Departure 24/1 KANIMBLA in accordance with C. in C. East Indies. 1042/22.
(N.O.I.C. Durban 1040B/24 to Admty etc).

Contraband Control. Your 0059/24/12. Question of limiting exports from India, Burma, Straits, Ceylon and Netherlands East Indies with unified control is under consideration. See also my telegram timed 1148/23 to C. in C. East Indies.
(Hd. of M. 1111/24 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Air Report. Operational Summary for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 24/1. Bombing nil. Convoy escort 3 Blenheims.
(Air H.Q. Aden, 1431/24).

Shipping Officer, Aden. Ministry of Shipping propose to appoint a Deputy Ministry of Shipping Representative at Aden who would also work in close liaison with Barker at Alexandria. Captain Messenger, local P. and O. agent at Aden is suggested for the appointment. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1630/24 to C. in C. E.I).

Meat Ships. Admty 2247/18 and 0202/24. Re release of HIGHLAND PRINCESS and HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN for meat carrying.
(D.T.D. 2004/24 to C. in C. E.I).
(See Operations Volume).

Aircraft Sqdns. Your 0816/24/12. Proposals for air sqdns, Ceylon, Mombasa, Durban, Calcutta.
(Hd. of M. to C. in C. E.I. 2148/24).
(See Operations Volume).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China and Thailand.

Your 0814/18. Following from Foreign Office, to inform Admiral Decoux. (D.N.I. to C. in C. China 2213/24).

From De Schompse to De Gaulle, No. 46, Indo-China Situation. Japan aggravating situation by supplying aircraft and material to Thai. (C. in C. China, 05072/24 to Admty).

America & West Indies.

T.C.9.

My 1201/23. Arrangements re DEMPO, JOHAN VAN OLDEN BARNE VELDE, and DUCHESS OF YORK. (D.S.T. 0200/24 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa). See Operations.

KING GEORGE V.

Arrived at Chesapeake Bay with Lord and Lady Halifax on board 24/1 (Press).

Expected time of arrival Cape Henry 0700/24 & Annapolis 1600. (KING GEORGE V., 0330R/24, to C. in C. H.F). (Conveying Lord Halifax Ambassador to U.S.A. etc).

ASCANIA.
PORPOISE.
H.X. 105.

Intend sailing ASCANIA and PORPOISE as ocean escorts for H.X. 105. ASCANIA subsequently returning to Halifax. PORPOISE instructed to proceed to Clyde with that portion of convoy unless otherwise ordered by F.O.(S) (F.O.3.B.S. 1902/24 to Admty).

COMORIN.

My 1756/23 COMORIN route. (B.S.3., 1937/24 to C. in C. S.A.).

Australia.

Shipping, Albany.

My 1802/12. Vessels destined for South and East Coast Australian ports need not call at Albany. (D.T.D. 1739/24 to A.I.G. 47).

Your 0345/22 vide my 1902/12 all ships from U.K. to Australia are now calling at Cape Town or Durban. Authorities will be instructed that it is not necessary for ships to call at Albany. (D.T.D. 1740/24 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne.).

MOST SECRET.

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GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORDELIA.

German ship CORDELIA arrived Trebizond 21/1 from Kerasund and Ordu leaving for Varna after loading 400 tons shelled hazel nuts.
(S.O.I. Alexandria, 1023/24 to Admty etc).

PLUS.

(B.2.). German ship PLUS is expected to sail. German master who has piloted previous ships reported to have arrived and taken charge.
(Consul, Vigo, 1115/13(?24) to D.N.I.).

Reported that German ship PLUS is expected to sail from Vigo. Graded B.2.
(D.D.I.C. 2106/24 to F.O.C.N.A).

Report received that German ship PLUS is expected to sail from Vigo.
(V.A.S. 2244/24 to Subs. on Patrol Area B).

German ship PLUS expected to sail from Vigo. Unrecognised Tanker passed Punta Arenas toward Atlantic on 19/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2359/24 to Ships & Authorities N.A. Station).

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FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MIN.

French ship MIN passed Sunda Straits 0300/23 for Saigon.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0438/24 to Admty).

CAMPANA.

CAMPANA has not sailed. Not known if sailing is postponed or cancelled.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1035/24 to C. in C. A.W.I. etc).

French ship CAMPANA has not sailed from Buenos Aires. A.I. report received that ship will not sail till next week.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1216Z/24 to D.N.I. R.A.S.A.D).

French Ambassador has informed (?Consul) that CAMPANA will not sail.
(N.A. Buenos Aires, 1706/24 to D.N.I).

JEAN L.D.

S.O. Force K's 1014/21. French ship JEAN L.D. held Capetown under Union armed guard. Ship running a scheme which has started regular sailing Marseilles, Casablanca, Dakar, Madagascar ports, Haiphong, Saigon, and Tourance leaving Marseilles 10th and 20th of each month. Ship is lightly loaded explanation being unoccupied France has nothing to export. Cargo about one thousand tons chiefly wine loaded Algiers. Summary of cargo follows in my 1203/24. Master anticipates loading rice Saigon for France.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1135/24 to Admty).

My 1135/24. Following is summary of cargo in French ship JEAN L.D.
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1203/24 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

OROPESA (torpedoed 16/1).

TENACITY arrived Campbeltown with survivors from OROPESA. (P.O.I.C. Greenock 1505/24).

Submarines Reported.

0208.

Following has been read. 60.12 N. 27.10 W., submarine sighted EMPIRE BUFFALO. (Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 0208/24) (Graded C.3. D.S. 507) EMPIRE BUFFALO, 6404 tons in H.X. 102 with steel and trucks (D.O.R. 24/1).

Italian U/B.

Left Las Palmas (Consul, Las Palmas, 1005/24 etc) See North Atlantic.

0136.

57 to 59 N. west of 25 W. indefinite position (D.S. 507).

Estimated U/B. Dispositions.

Situation still obscure.

German.
One probably to N. W. Cape Verde Is. may be proceeding home.
One may be to N.W. Cape Verde outward.
One about 49° N. 27° W.
Three probably in area 50° to 55° N. 15° to 20° W.
One 57° to 59° N. West of 25° W.
One may have been in 60° N. 27° W. at 0208/24.
Three more whereabouts unknown but may be one to N.W., one to N.E. and one to S.E. of Rockall.

Italian.
One in Las Palmas.
One between Azores and Portugal.
One vicinity Canary Is.
One near 57° N. 21° W. at 1302/23.
One about 52° N. 20° W. bound for Gironde.
Two more probably West or South West of Rockall.
(D.D.I.C. 1334/24).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.1.1941.
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SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western Channel Patrol

KELLY and KASHMIR last night patrolled between Start Point and Lands End.

Operation "Rubble"

The five Norwegian merchant ships which broke out of the Skagerrak on 23/1 arrived at Kirkwall today.

Sweep for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU

A report was received this evening from N.A. Stockholm that two heavy ships, believed to be SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU had passed through the Great Belt north bound at 1100/23. C. in C., H.F. in NELSON left Scapa at 2330 G.M.T. today with RODNEY, REPULSE, 8 cruisers and 11 Destroyers. Coastal Command are carrying out appropriate patrols, and Battles from Iceland are to patrol Denmark Strait tomorrow.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused patrols in the southern half of the North Sea to be greatly curtailed today. Several air escorts failed to locate their convoys owing to low visibility in the N.W. Approaches.

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today.

Beauforts of Coastal Command last night attacked the docks at Lorient. E-Boats off Ameland were bombed today without result.

MOST SECRET

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SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS MERIONES, which ran aground on Haisboro Sands during the night 21/22 was unsuccessfully bombed today. Rescue tug NORMAN was bombed whilst assisting her, but was not damaged. An attacking aircraft was hit and crippled and jettisoned her bombs in the sea.

H.M.T. THEIR MERIT was slightly damaged by a near miss at Great Yarmouth this afternoon.

An unknown ship, believed to be Dutch STAD ARNHEM was attacked in the N.W. Approaches today.

It is reported that SS WOOLER (507 tons) was set on fire and considerably damaged at the London Docks in air raid 13/1

Mining

Harwich was opened this morning and the Humber this afternoon; a large number of mines were exploded in the Humber today.

Mines were detonated off Liverpool today and M/S Trawler RUNSWICK BAY sustained minor damage.

One mine self detonated off St. Ann's Head (Milford Haven)

MOST SECRET

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SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Cables — The cable ship MIRROR, escorted by LEYLAND left Gibraltar this morning for an operation off Tangier and Cadiz.

Azores — Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Admty. 2146/30/10, re Western Patrol dispositions in relation to an attempt to capture the Azores, are to be in abeyance until further orders.

South Atlantic

MENDOZA — DEVONSHIRE is to meet the French ship MENDOZA at Ascension and provide cover until DRAGON can join, when both will escort MENDOZA to Freetown.

Mediterranean

Patrols — A standing patrol in Kithera and ante-Kithera has been established by corvettes. One A/S trawler in Kaphonisos Channel will be relieved by a Greek torpedo boat.

Operation "Inspection" — ILLUSTRIOUS arrived at Alexandria today. Enemy aircraft appear just to have failed to make contact with her. V.A.L.F.'s force failed to make contact owing to the high speed of ILLUSTRIOUS and was attacked from 1710 to 1815/24 by about 30 enemy aircraft in position 34° 20' N., 20° 10' but no ships were damaged; four of 5 aircraft were possibly damaged. Details of the air attacks on her on 16/1 are contained in D.T.S.D. 1639/25 in response to a request from C. in C., Home Fleet.

A Junkers 88 reconnoitred Malta this morning at a great height but dropped no bombs.

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

NORFOLK, AUSTRALIA, SUFFOLK, LONDON, BERWICK, DEVONSHIRE, EXETER —)Intended Movements. (A.C.N.S. H. 1311/25 to C.in C. H.F.). See Operations Volume.

1st C.S. — Adty. 0300/22, 0910/12, and 1917/24/11. Rear-Admiral Wake-Walker has hoisted flag in NORFOLK as F.O.C. 1st C.S. (A.C.N.S. F. 1320/25).

9th M/S F.) A/S Training.) — Your 1946/23. Under present conditions I see no chance of being able to give 9th M/S F. adequate A/S Training here. Reasons. (A.C.O.S. 1401/25 to Adty.)

Loch Ewe. — C.in C. W.A. 1007/24. Concur that Aultbea should be transferred to the command of C.in C. W.A. Further proposals will be forwarded with regard to the proposed new boundary between the C and S and W A commands taking into consideration also the question of W/T areas vide your 1236/18 and C.in C. Rosyths 1746/17. (A.C.O.S. 1737/25 to Adty.).

EAGLE Ships Armament. — Your 2029/24.
(A) No arms can be spared from any existing EAGLES which are already under-armed. Particulars. It is also desired to fit in any EAGLES which can carry them U.P. Pig troughs or a number of single 3" U.P. mountings firing explosive shells.
(C.in C. Nore 1755/23 to Adty.)

Rescue Tugs Armament. — Your 1536/24. It is under consideration to provide Oerlikon guns in rescue tugs operating in N.W. approaches.
Ships should already carry Schermuly pistols. P.A.C. rockets are being provided but Holman projectors should not be fitted at present.
(D.T.D. 1818/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

TOWN-class Destroyers. Working up arrangements. — A.M.1120/18, my 1917/18, and Captain (D) Londonderry's 2340/20.
Intend Town Class destroyers shall carry out preliminary training from Plymouth and Dartmouth, and if necessary final working up practices from Loch Foyle.

/ 2. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

T or N-class Destroyers. Working up arrangements. (Contd.)

2. It is proposed Holyhead S/M be transferred to Londonderry as the additional S/M and be available for Liverpool and Greenock escort groups as well as Town class destroyers. Request arrangements be made accordingly.
(C.in C. W.A. 1836/23 to Adty.)

Defence of U.K.

Exercise "Victor".

C.in C. Portsmouth 0006/25.

A.C.O.S. 0008/25, 1201/25,

C.in C. Rosyth 0010/25, 0044/25, 1212/25,

Air Ministry 0029/25,

V.A. Dover 0033/25, 0411/25, 2009/25, 1223/25,

C.in C. W.A. Rend. 0035/25, 0035/25, 0601/25, 0905/25,

F.O.I.C. Tyne. 0610/25,

F.O.I.C. Portland 0817/25, 1221/25, 1530/25,

D.C. 0900/25, 1009/25, 0210/25,

C.in C. Nore 1030/25,

My 2335/13. Exercise VICTOR will end at 1400 today. (Captain Edwards 1301/25 to C's-in-C.)

DELUGE.

At 1150/25. (D.C. 1138/25).
At 2330/25 (D.C. 2337/25).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KELLY
KASHMIR — Sailed Plymouth 2000/24. (C.in C. W.A. 0135/25).

T.L.C.'s. — Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1116/25).

BOREAS. — Arrived Sheerness 1120/25.
(C.in C. Nore 1224/25 to F.O.I.C. London).

Intend sail for Scapa at 1300/27.
(C.in C. Nore 1234/25 to A.C.O.S.).

M/V's. — Sailed for Sheerness at 1200/25
H.M. A/S Trawler CAPE PORTLAND escorting
M.F.A. LARCHOL and three merchant ships.
Anchoring for the night in Barrow Deep.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1250/25 to Adty.)

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight.
One Trawler. (A.C.O.S. 1539/25).

Force Z. — My 1655/22 para. one. S.O. of Force for GLENROY read GLENCOYLE.
(D.O.D.(H) 1701/25 to C.in C's W.A., S.A., E.I., and F.O.C.M.A.).

MOOLTAN. — Arrived Gravesend 1630. Entering Tilbury Docks 1100/26.
(F.O.I.C. London 1706/25 to C.in C. Nore).

DOUGLAS. — Return to Scapa with despatch.
(C.in C. H.F. 1905/25 to DOUGLAS).

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation RUBBLE.

My position at 0500/25 is 058° 57' North 001° 37' West. E.T.A. Kirkwall 0700. Norwegian Ship JOHNSBAKKE in company. (AURORA 0500/25 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 2351/24. At 0300/25 058° 48' N. 000° 28' W. 274°, 12 knots. AURORA believed to be 12 miles ahead. Each with one merchant vessel in company. (F.O. 18 C.S. 0259/25 to F.O. 18 C.S.).

Scapa arrival 0600 ELECTRA, OSLO, ESCAPADE, ECHO, 0900 AURORA. (A.C.O.S. 0907/25 to Adty.).

Operation RUBBLE completed. (C.in C. H.F. 0027/25 to Adty.).

A/S Patrol.

Two A/S trawlers are proceeding from Scapa at 1700 today to carry out an A/S Patrol between Butt of Lewis Flannan Island and position 059° N. 007° 30' W. (A.C.O.S. 1204/25 to Adty.)

Azores.

D.O.D.(F) 1016/25 to F.O.C.N.F. see North Atlantic.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

OSIRIS. — Sailed, escorted by GULLFOSS, at 0820 for Sheerness.
(V.A. Dover 0825/25).

Arrived Sheerness for Chatham escorted by H.M.T. GULLFOSS at 1355/25.
(C.in C. Nore 1522/25).

Azores Patrol. — a. Intend following programme for maintenance of Azores Patrol and return of submarines of 8th Flotilla to Gibraltar.
f. Routes from Portsmouth to Azores will be ordered by F.O.S.
g. Cancel para. b. of my 1156/21.
(F.O.S. 1019/25 to Adty.).

Operation STEEL. — Operation STEEL completed.
My 1011/23 restrictions on attacking Merchant ships are cancelled.
(S.C. 1212/25 to SUNFISH).

H.31. — Submarine H 31 completed and proceeded down river 25/1. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1212/25).

Positions. — At 0800/26 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1736/25).

L. 27. — Intend to sail L 27 unescorted diving by day at 1630/26 through 50°N. 3° W. to R/V. with an M L 110°. Start Point 3 miles at 1000/27.
(S.S. 1855/25 to Adty.).

PANDORA. — E.T.A. position W 0900/27.
8 mark 8 and 6 mark 4 torpedoes on board.
(PANDORA 2257/25 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

MOST SECRET.

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Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Ordered for today. R.C. of Norwegian Coast Bergen to Lister by 3 a/c from Wick taking off 0845. HORNLI taking off 1030. (C. in C. Rosyth 0906/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

My 0906 HORNLI cancelled owing to weather.(C. in C. Rosyth 1002/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

Request following air patrols.
(A) During daylight/26th as in my 0056/20 modified as far as practicable to meet requirement stated in paragraph 2 of my 1440/24 to 18 group.
(B) Patrol FUGLE during daylight/27th with new starting point 64° N. 5° West. (C. in C. H.F. 1959/25 to C in C. Rosyth.

My 1959/25. If practicable would like patrols increased as follows.
During daylight/ 26th FUGLE and the patrol referred to in para.(A) of my 1959. Similar patrols during daylight/27th.
2. If all these cannot be done FUGLE on 26th should be surrendered first. (C. in C. H.F. 2029/25 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Your 2029/25. The following increased patrols will be flown daylight 26th and 27th., amended Fugle Datum point 64° N. 05° W., mean line of patrol 330 degs. same length. Two cross over patrols as in my 1750/20/1 but amended datum point 61° N. 12° W. similar length and datum point for second displaced accordingly.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2258/25 to C. in C. H.F.)

/Lorient.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Lorient. AP/786 25/1. Repeat tonight operations ordered for night 24th/25th. (H.Q.C.C. 1630/25 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

A/C for Iceland. Your 1637/25. (1) Intention is ultimately to send in addition to Norwegian seaplane squadron, one squadron of G.R. land planes, one squadron of long range fighters and one squadron of flying boats.
(3) No dates for departure of these aircraft can yet be given.
(4) No Operational control. (5th S.L. 1750/25 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.)

Enemy Air Activity.

MERIONES. Bombed. South Middle Halsboro sand. (Lyness Reed. 1319/25.) (Humber Radio 1459/25.)

NORMAN. (Rescue Tug) Attacked bombed South Middle Halsborough.(Lyness W/T. 1403/25.)

STAD ARNHEM. (Dutch, 3819 Tons.) Proceed to search for survivors probably Dutch ship STAD ARNHEM in 055° 40' North 015° 16' West at 1154/25.(C. in C.W.A. 1651/25 to SKERNA.)

LURIGETHAN. Estimated position 55° 50' N. 15° 40' W Fuel remaining 80 tons. Tug not met. LURIGETHAN all after hatches on fire, expect Magazine explode any time, bridge and forward hatch intact. Will attempt towage if weather conditions allow. Your 1654/25 received and understood. (ARABIS 1700/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

/MONTH.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

NORE COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

MOSTYN.

Detach one Trawler to rendezvous with Tug SALVONIA endeavouring to locate S.S. MOSTYN in 054° 30' N. 014° 52' W.(C. in C. W.A. 1709/25 to SALADIN.)

Your 1729/24 and 1049/25. Have searched between 054° 10' N. and 054° 50'N.014° 20' W and 015° 50'W. Found no traces of MOSTYN. Consider my position is accurate. Fuel will not permit continuing search tomorrow. Intend to abandon search at dark today. Tug SALVONIA and Lerwick aircraft not sighted. (SKERNA 1725/25 to C. in C. W.A.)

Survivors of MOSTYN landed Scapa from PHOENIX state. Aircraft which attacked them was a four engined land plane, type not identified, carrying British Markings on side of fuselage. No other markings seen. (A.C.O.S.1843/25 to Adty.)

RANJA.
(Operation "Rubble".)

(Swedish, 1380 Tons.) My 1315/25. Attacked in 58° 45' mins. N. 4° 10'E. at 1610/24 by a twin engine seaplane. Showers of Red Green and White Lights were seen, presumably tracers, coming from the Machine. Two bombs. Upper dock raked by machine gun fire. First Officer wounded. Boats pierced by machine gun bullets.(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1720/25 to A.C.O.S.)

THEIR MERIT.

(M/S Trawler) Slightly damaged, by near miss of H.E. bomb at coaling wharf Great Yarmouth about 1530 today. 2 killed, 4 slightly wounded. (P.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1916/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Harwich.	Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0824/25.)
A/C. Minelaying.	AP.789 25/1. For tonight.(H.Q.C.C. 1031/25 to 16 Group, H. Coates.)
CORREATH.	(British, 1096 Tons). In C.H.23. Sunk by mine in about 270° Botany Buoy one mile, at about 2000/24 in very thick weather. Reported 19 survivors accounted for out of 22. (C. in C. Nore 1117/25.)
S.N.7.	Your 1004/18. Order of laying is concurred in. (A.C.N.S.N.1141/25. to RAML.)
Humber.	Open to navigation. Ships are to pass to Northward of Gate vessel. Convoy anchorage, Northern and Southern examination anchorages, still remain closed.(F.O. Humber 1322/25.)
TEVIOT BANK. IMPULSIVE.	Arrived with WITHERINGTON in company at 1515. (F.O. Humber 1545/25.)
INTREPID.	Departure D.20 in INTREPID at 1640. (F.O. Humber 1705/25.)
Milford Haven.	Ground Mine self detonated 078° St. Anns Head 16.5 Cables.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1806/25.)
Liverpool RUNSWICK BAY damaged.	Ming report to 1800/25. One detonated, 140°, 2 Black Buoy 3 cables. One detonated 210° Q1 Black Buoy 4 cables. M/S trawler RUNSWICK BAY minor damaged. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1845/25.)
TASMANIA.	Arrived Leith Roads 1400/25. Damage hole 20 feet in diameter above waterline in port quarter. Hand steering only. Probability of further under water damage and leaking slightly. Speed 12 knots and difficulty in controlling. Repairs will involve dry dock. (N.O.I.C. Leith 1910/25.)

/SPURN.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

SFUNN Point.

The following ten mines were exploded today. (F.O. Number 2134/25. and 1709/25.)

My 1820/25. Details of Mines exploded. (F.O.Number 2155/25.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Unit.

By D/F at 1117/25. Position of unknown enemy unit was 58° 10' N. 10° 30' E. Unreliable. fix. (D.D.I.C. 1152/25.)

By D/F at 1236 B.S.T. unidentified enemy unit probably surface vessel in position 58 N. 5 20 E. very indefinite fix.). (D.D.I.C. 1306/25) (F.O.S.1407/25 to S/M's Area B.)

My 1152/25 and 1306/25. Further information shows that this is probably the same unit. The position at 1117/25 should be regarded as the more reliable. (D.D.I.C. 1536/25.)

My 1407. Further information shows position to be 058° 10' N. 010° 30' E. (F.O.S. 1712/25 to S/M's Area A.)

Blocking of Kiel Canal.

Kiel Canal. (1) On 13/1 forepart of Swedish IBOA had been cut as far as bridge. Barges were alongside after part clearing iron ore, expected to complete early February.
(2) During period of blockage caused by IBOA sinking and further restriction when JOSEPH BERGENDORF collided reliable information states total 300 vessels were held up.(N.A. Stockholm 1204/24.)

/2 Heavy.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. Contd.

2 Heavy Ships breaking out.

Two heavy ships believed SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU passed Nyborg Pilot Station (four)(corrupt group) North bound at 1100/23. A.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1241/25.) (D.D.I.C. 1751/25.)

German main units at 1100/23 two large vessels believed GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST passed through Great Belt North bound. Graded A.2. Coastal Command are carrying out appropriate patrols and would very much appreciate your Battles patrolling Denmark Strait (W.O. 2305/25. to G.O.C. Iceland Force.

TORDENSKJOLD.

Your 2202/15. Norwegian TORDENSKJOLD passed through single belt southward in tow on Jan. 22nd. A two. (N.A. Stockholm 1605/25 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Damage to Lifeboats.

Instances have occurred of ships' lifeboats being damaged or completely destroyed through being left turned-out in heavy weather. Masters should be allowed to exercise their discretion in regard to turning-in boats in heavy weather and Commodores of Convoys are to be informed accordingly. (D.T.D.1880/25.)

Weather Damage to Cargoes.

Cases have occurred of Merchant Ships in convoy and their cargoes having sustained heavy weather damage. The attention of Commodore should be drawn to the necessity of reducing speed or heaving-to in bad weather in order to assist those ships who, owing to the nature of their cargoes or inferior power, have difficulty in maintaining convoy speed, without incurring damage.(D.T.D.1884/25.)

Channel Convoys.

The number of ships specially fitted for service in Channel convoys is strictly limited. No avoidable delay in the turn round of these ships can be accepted. In particular fast ships should be included in slow FS or FN convoys where this will mean earlier arrival. (2046/25 to C in C's Nore, Rosyth.)

Coastal Convoys.
F.S.92.

F.S. Convoy 92 proceeded. (LONDONDERRY 0700/25 to C. in C. Nore.)

E.N.62.

W.N.72.

Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 62 sailing at 1030/26. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail WESTON to join W N 72 due Duncansby Head 1300/28. Code Word for E N 62 Mission and W N 72 Material.(C. in C. Rosyth 0830/25 to WESTON.)

/O.B.278.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

O.B.278. Londonderry departures 25/1. SALADIN SKATE SARDONYX MALLOW NORTHERN SPRAY NORTHERN PRIDE ST.ELSTON ANEMONE for O B 278.(Capt. D. Londonderry 0945/25.)

F.N.91. Southend 25/1 departure for Methil for onward routeing to Clyde A.C.B. MALVERNIAN with convoy F.N.91.(N.O.S.O. Thames, 1010/25.)

F.S.95. If my 1240/24 not received proceed so as to E.V. F.S.95 due Outer Dowsing 1200 today. S.O. of Escort, VANITY (N.O.I.C. Humber, 1011/25. to PUFFIN.)

F.N.90. Arrived. 1015/25.(N.C.S.O. Methil 1024/25.)

F.S.95. 63 Ships.(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1113/25.)

F.S.94. The 5 ships previously reported with PUFFIN have not been seen. Commodore and remaining ships are with me off South Shipwash.(COTSWOLD 1130/25 to WESTMINSTER.)

5 M.V.'s for E.N. Convoy. Request you will sail ELIZABETH BAKKE JOHN BAKKE, TAURUS, TAISHAN, and DICTO, to join next convenient E.N. convoy for the Clyde.(D.D.D.(E) 1136/25 to A.C.O.S. (Became Convoy E.S., see 27/1.)

My 1130/25. As these ships are carrying extremely valuable cargoes C. in C. W. App. is requested to provide additional escort from as far north as possible. A.C.O.S. to inform C. in C. W.A. in which convoy they will be sailed.(D.T.D.2014/25. to C.in C. W.A, A.C.O.S.).

W.E.73. E.T.A. Kinnaird Head 1900/25 speed of advance 8 knots.(SOUTHERN PRIDE, 1145/25.)

/F.N. and F.S.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.N. and F.S. — Amend my 1132/23/1. to read:-

F N.	F S.
91.	- WIDGEON.
92.	96 SNAPDRAGON.
93.	- PUFFIN.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1208/25. to C. in C. Nore, etc.)

My 1208/25 for F N 92 and F S 96, Read PUFFIN instead of SNAPDRAGON.(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1059/26.)

F.S.05. SELKIRK. — Anticipate sailing SELKIRK in time to catch up with F.S.05 today.(F.O. Humber, 1229/25, to C. in C. Nore.)

SELKIRK leaves Humber 1300 on passage to Harwich and will join escort of F.S.05 if possible.(C. in C. Nore, 1240/25 to VANITY.)

Humber 25/1. Departure SELKIRK at 1500 to join F.S.05 thence Harwich. (F.O. Humber, 1521/25, to Admty etc.)

W.N.73. — Scapa, departures 0930 CURACOA and JASON to escort Convoy W.N.73.(A.C.O.S., 1235/25.)

F.S.02. — Convoy F.S.02 reported in Barrow Deep 6 ships for London.(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1247/25.)

F.N.01. — Sailed 1006/25. 46 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1317/25.)

W.N.76. — My 1045/25 not to Admiralty. Sailed H.M.Y. CORSAIR escorted by A/S Trawlers KING SOL and STELLA CAPELLA. Trawlers also for W.N.76. Rothesay Bay 2100/25. (F.O.I.C.Belfast, 1425/25, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

/F.S.96.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.S.94.	Convoy F S 94 reported in Barrow Deep 17 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1552/25 to Admty.)
S.N.73A.	E.T.A. Kinnaird 1900. CURACOA parts company at dark. Returns to Scapa.(C. in C. Rosyth 1644/25.)
7.M.V.'s.	Intend sailing 7 M/V's at 1700/26 escorted by H.M.Y. MAID MARION, E.T.A.(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1648/25.)
O.B.278.	Londonderry Departure 25/1 NORTHERN DAWN for O.B.278. (Capt. D. Londonderry 1741/25.)
F.N.91.	12 Ships one H.M.T. and six Trawlers from Humber, joining at 62 D buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1742/25.)
E.N.62.	1030/26. H.M.T'S INDIAN STAR (S.O.) FOXTROT additional escort WESTON, 29 ships (18 overseas) Code Words:- E N 62. MISSION, E.N.L. Portion MONITOR, E N O Portion MIXTURE. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1839/25.)
OGM 51. ALSEY.	Controlled minelaying trawler ALSEY sailed in convoy O G M 51. E.T.A. Fayal, Azores, (date) (N.O.I.C. Milford H., 1655/25. to Admty etc.)
F.N.91.	12 Ships one H.M. Trawler and 6 Trawlers joining F N 91 at Outer Dowsing. (C. in C. Rosyth 1932/25 to LONDONDERRY, WOLFHOUND, amended 0947/26.)

/W.H.75.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

W.N.75. Sailed 1823/25. Escort H.M.Trawlers BERKSHIRE(S O) and ST. APOLLO. 17 ships. Ten with kites.(N.O.S.O. Clyde, 1940/25.)

F.S.92. Arrived except TOMSK.(N.O.S.O.Thames, 2010/25.)

C.W.24. Intend to sail C.W. 24 from Southend on 29/1. Timetable with names of escorts and number of M/Vs will be signalled later. (C. in C. Nore, 2124/25. to Admty.)

Three A/S Trawlers are to be sailed to arrive Southend before dark on 28/1 to form escort of C.W.24.Trawlers detailed should act as escort for FITZROY proceeding in tow of KENIA to Sheerness. Fighter protection will be asked for.(C. in C. Nore, 2130/25 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

F.N.91. F.N.91 with 52 ships due number 5 Buoy 0200/26. (LONDONDERRY, 2218/25, to FLEETWOOD.)

F.N.90.
F.S.95. Rosyth 25/1, Arrivals VALOROUS, VORTIGERN with F.N.90 - includes M.L.169 on passage to Fort William and SEOALFISHER on passage Tyne - Devonport via Oban, Departures,GARTH, for F.S.95 and Sheerness. (C. in C Rosyth,2237/25.)

W.N.76. Sailed A/S trawler FANDANGO for WN 76, E.T.A. Clyde Boom 0900/26. (F.O.I.C. Belfast, 2235/25.)

Ocean Convoys.
H.X. 103. Moot. (C. in C.W.A.,1021/25 to WHITEHALL VISCOUNT WINCHELSEA,VANQUISHER GENTIAN VERBENA.

/H.G.50.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

H.C.50.

S.L.S.61.

H.C.50 and S L S 61 THELMA (undamaged) arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1205/25. to Admty.)

C.C.51.

If ready A/S trawler RUBENS is to be sailed to Gibraltar in C.C.51.(R.V.) (C. in C.W.A. 1309/25. to Commodore, WESTERN ISLES.)

H.C.50.
H.X.101.

My 1207/25. FENDRIS only ship in H.C.50B for Bristol Channel dropped astern during night will be late at rendezvous. Keep sharp look out also for SAN CIRILO Ex H.X.101 bound for Barry Roads which should have joined Convoy today.(C. in C. W.A. 1607/25 to DERBY COUNTY.)

C.C.50.

C.C.50, 64 (as received.) hours early at Oli(?) West. 8 Ships present of which 5 part company at Cape St. Vincent. 2 others for Gibraltar lost touch and are believed to be 12 hours ahead. (DEPTFORD,1806/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

C.C.M.51.

1855/25.H.M.T. LEEDS UNITED. One Ship and H.M.T. ALSEY. (F.O.I.C. Milford H., 1900/25.)

C.C.51.

Fayal for Sierra Leone H.M.T. ALSEY (45) E.T.A. Lisbon MACBRAE (12) E.T.A. Lisbon MACBRAE (12) E.T.A. (N.C.S.O. Milford H., 1900/25.)

H.X.102.

My 1845/25, Estimate convoy H.X.102, Approx. 20 ships will cross your track before midnight.(C. in C.W.A., 2159/25. to GARLAND LEOPARD repeated ABERDEEN WITCH WILD SWAN FLEUR DE LYS PERIWINKLE CAMPANULA GARDENIA.

/PORT HUNTER.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

PORT HUNTER.

(British, 8826 Tons). Now expects to pass boom outward bound for Curacao at 2200/25. Route through Minches and thence as follows:- Request air protection. (N.O.S.O. Clyde 1215/25 to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MILITARY CONVOYS W.S.6.

Your 2207/22. At the time of this commitment the only destroyers working up, other than Home Fleet and HUNT Class, will be NIZAM and LEGION. These Will be available. KEPPEL will also be made available and DOUGLAS will have joined Western Approaches Command. (C. in C. H.F. 1437/25 to Adty.)

A/S. Escort.

Your 1437/25. In addition to ships named request you will detail two Hunts. (D.O.D.H. 1637/25. to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

Unknown Ship. — Following intercepted from unknown station at 1013 G.M.T. begins (jammed) ship breaks in two have save what can. Ends. Please keep sharp look out. (Wick Radio 1013/25.)

MORVEN HILL. — (Naval Control Service S/Drifter) Damaged whilst going alongside S/S BRITTANY COAST at 1730/24 in Methil Roads. No apparent damage to other vessel. Request A.S. Rosyth arrange survey. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1020/25.)

SPEY. — Ashore on Coquet Island. Amble C.G. report crew brought ashore by lifeboat. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1227/25.)

WIRTA. — My 1651/24. WIRTA is breaking in two and has been abandoned. Crew safe. (F.O.Iceland 1256/25.)

M.T.B.30.
M.T.B.31. — M.T.B.31 and 30 in collision while leaving Harbour on 23/1. M.T.B.31 sustained damage to bow. M.T.B.30 damage to starboard side abreast bridge involving torpedo tube. No casualties. M.T.B.31 can be repaired here. Damage to M.T.B.30 is beyond capabilities of BEEHIVE. She is being made serviceable for passage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1603/25.)

BANDAR SHAHPOUR. — BANDAR SHAHPOUR ex Convoy O B O 275 damaged in collision with KORSFJORD has put into Stornoway. No casualties. Requires docking and dockyard repairs. Able to proceed under own steam. Request instructions. KORSFJORD sunk. 19 survivors landed Stornoway, two lost. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1700/25.)

KORFSJORD
(Norwegian, 1620 tons

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25. 1.1941
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Operations Against Vichy French

French Submarines

French Admiralty via N.A. announce submarines AMPHITRITE SIBYLLE AMAZONE escorted by a small surface vessel will pass Gibraltar eastbound 28/1 between 1000 and 1200 hours. (N.A.Madrid 1613/25 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Germans at Casablanca

Reliable source states German representative Casablanca is now exerting his powers. He has forbidden further repairs to military plants and has stopped import of stone crushing machinery brought by SS MARSHALL LYAUTEY. This cargo is supposed to be re-exported to France when MARSHAL LYAUTEY returns from Dakar. Germans propose to take over control from Italian Armistice Commission. Telegram No 1686 (Consul General, Tangier, T.H.I., 1813/24)

North Atlantic

Cable Operation LEYLAND MIRROR

Gibraltar 25/1 0930 departure LEYLAND escorting cable ship MIRROR for operation off Tangier and Cadiz. (S.O.I., Gib., 0940/25 to Admty.)

Report of Ship from Casablanca to Bordeaux

Following is a repetition of my 1056/24 (no trace of previous receipt in W.R.) (begins) Admty. 819 from F.O.C.N.A., My 1822/18. Confirmed SS SAINTE LOIUSE ex German SS TRIFELS 1056/24 (ends) (F.O.C.N.A. 1138/25 to Admty.)

OTUS

Position of submarine at 0500/26 and movements for the following 24 hours OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/25)

Passage of German Air Personnel

Reported ship leaving Corunna today 25/1 for Canary Islands having on board 15 German Air Force personnel travelling with South American passports. Any ships from Corunna Vigo or Ferrol on or about this date which are encountered should be examined closely and if doubt exists sent to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1229/25)

/SCOTTISH.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic-Contd.

SCOTTISH
ALOUETTE
MIRROR
LEYLAND
NORTHERN PRINCE

SCOTTISH on patrol off Lisbon onwards ALOUETTE on patrol between Cape St. Mary's and Cadiz. Cable ship MIRROR escorted by LEYLAND is working cable in position 036° 18' N., 006° 25' W., NORTHERN PRINCE escorted by one destroyer sails Westbound 2000/26. (F.O.C.N.A., 1146/25 to JERSEY, JUPITER)

Daily summary operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. 1 surface recco. West. Area covered 4° 45' W.,-10°W. (200 Group, 1700/25)

Azores

Until further orders paragraphs 5 and 6 of Admty 2146/30/10 (re possible attempt by enemy to capture Azores) are to be considered in abeyance. (D.O.D. (F) 1816/25 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Spain

Bi-weekly Report. German pressure for passage to attack Gibraltar certain but will be refused. Attempt to force passage most improbable at present. (N.A. Madrid, 1834/25)

ALSEY

Controlled minelaying trawler, left for Fayal, Azores. (N.O.I.C., Milford Haven, 1855/25 - see Shipping & Convoys)

South Atlantic

HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN
ORMONDE
EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA

My 1154/11. Re disposal of personnal. (D. of S.T. 0221/25 Amended 0223/26 to C. in C. S.A.) See Operations Vol.

Troopships dry docking.

Situation at Durban (N.O.I.C., Durban 0830Z/25)

DELHI

Return to Freetown so as to sail 0730/28 (c. in C., S.A., 0939M/25 to DELHI)

/DORSETSHIRE...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

DORSETSHIRE	Your 1123/23. (No trace W/R) After fuelling at St. Helena proceed to Freetown so as to arrive p.m./29 passing close to Ascension. (C. in C., S.A., 1045N/25 to DORSETSHIRE)
W.S. 5 B	Arrived a.m./25. (S.O.I., Freetown, 1257/N/25) See Operation Volume.
Force K	25/1. Capetown departure and Simonstown arrival force K. C. in C., E.I., 1306/23? refers. (F.O.I.C., Simonstown, 1403Z/25)
Raiders "A" and "D"	Re C. in C., S.A's 1337N/23 and a plain language signal from Magistrate South Georgia reporting unknown ship at harbour mouth for which a cancellation was not received, I returned to Grytviken at maximum speed. Am proceeding again in accordance with my 1539Z/22. N.O.I.C. Falkland Isles please repeat to Admty., C. in C., S.A.D. (QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1424/25)
	1424/25 Passed to you (N.O.I.C., Port Stanley 1834Z/25)
COMMANDANT DUBOC	Admty. 1217/22/12. Orders for. (D.O.D. (F) 1748/25) See Operations Volume.
BULLFINCH	Your 1202/23. Route and instructions. (D.A./S.W. 1815/25 to F.O.I.C. Greenock,) See operations Volume.
Convoy W.S. 6	Your 1923/22. Re water supply. (D. of S.T. 1916/25 to C. in C., S.A.,) See Operations Volume.
	Your 1045/25 acknowledged. Arrived St. Helena 1900Z/25 and commenced fuelling. Expect to pass close to Ascension 1700Z/27 and arrive Outer end of Freetown swept channel 1230 plus 1 29/1. (DORSETSHIRE, 2100Z/25 to C. in C., S.A.)

/Shipping.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Shipping movements	Southbound ships crossing 20° N., Approx noon positions 26/1 and Routes. (D.T.D., 1206/25 to S.A. Station)
DEVONSHIRE DRAGON MENDOZA	My 1123/23 On arrival St. Helena DEVONSHIRE is to proceed to Ascension meet MENDOZA there and provide cover until DRAGON can join. DRAGON is to complete with fuel and proceed to join DEVONSHIRE at Ascension when both ships are to escort MENDOZA to Freetown. (C. in C., S.A., 1325/25 to DEVONSHIRE, DRAGON)
Enemy Unit	D.F.'s at 0317Z/25 suggest U-Boat or auxiliary within 80 miles of position either 006° S 013° W., or between Cape Blanco and Canary Islands. Reliability of position 45% and 35% respectively. (C. in C., S.A., 1343N/25 to S.A. Station)
Suspicious Vessel ? Disguised Submarine	British ship CLAN MACNAIR reports following 1200Z/1 in 051° 20' N., 027° 44' W., sighted seven miles strange small craft one funnel amidships two masts foremast taller than main mast. Appearance trawler steering 45 then attempting to close. Rain storm lasting ten minutes obscured strange craft which was not seen again. Master of opinion she was submarine disguised. (S.O.(I) Capetown 1502/25)
ISMAILA	Commodore Birnie and Commodore Illingworth in steamship ISMAILA from Clyde due Freetown (date) (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 1644/25 to S.O.I. Freetown)
Dispositions	Weekly state at 1200/25 (C. in C., S.A., 1513Z/25)
NEWCASTLE	NEWCASTLE arrived Buenos Aires 1500 zone + 3 24/1. Intend depart 1430 zone + 3 25/1 and rendezvous with CUMBERLAND in position 35° S., 53° 30' W., at 1800Z/26 (NEWCASTLE, 1729/25 to C. in C., A.W.I., R.A.S.A.D. etc.,)

/START POINT....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

25.1.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd

START POINT — My 2150/12. START POINT has no charts of Freetown or Approaches. (D.T.D. 1732/25 to C. in C., S.A., H.C.S.O., Freetown)

VELOX
VIDETTE — Owing to difficulty of cleaning three boilers together at Bathurst, intend to defer boiler cleaning of VELOX and VIDETTE until arrival at Gibraltar. Anticipate VELOX and VIDETTE will sail for Gibraltar after fuelling at Bathurst about 5/2. My 1415/24 refers. (C. in C., S.A., 1901N/25)

Cable Ships — Your telegram W. 9 of 22/1 to secretary of state para 6 (b) Operation of cable ships is arranged by Admty., Similar proposals have already been forwarded to Admty in my 0825/16 repeated to Governor Nigeria. Brazzaville C 26 of 21/1, being passed to you and Admty, also refers. (C. in C., S.A., 2015N/25 to Waggon, Lagos)

Raider Situation — I concur generally with the summary given in your 1951/4/1. Suggest raider D was the one north of Bermuda by D/F 21/12. Raider E it is possible was the one the D.F. bearings indicated on 19/11, 20/12 and 4/1 about positions 50° S., 28° W., 15° S., 13° W and 28° S 6° W., respectively else these positions might have been VON SCHEER. (C. in C., S.A., 2331/25 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Guns.

Your 2313/20, barrels and guns shipped in W.S. 6. My 2206/22 (not to F.O.C.N.A. C.S.3) refers. Outstanding items of gunmounting spares will be forwarded as soon as possible.
(D.A.S. 0655/25 to C. in C. Med).

DAINTY.
PROTECTOR.
JAGUAR.
REGENT.

Take PROTECTOR and JAGUAR under your orders and sail p.m./25 to proceed to approx. position 032° 30'N. 024° 00'E. at 1300/26, thence carry out an A/S sweep, to (? proceed out of) Kethera Channel thence Suda Bay. On arrival Suda Bay DAINTY and JAGUAR are to be at disposal of S.B.N.O. Suda Bay to reinforce (?other) patrols until further orders. REGENT expected time of arrival Alexandria sanctuary 0500/26 direct from position 033° 00'N. 024° 36'N. 024° 36'E. FIONA pass to S.N.O. Inshore Squadron. T.O.O. 0913/25.
(C. in C. Med, 0917/25 to DAINTY).

Genoa
Air Reccon.

Your 1217/23. (Air reconnaissance of Genoa required). This will be arranged by R.A.A. Mediterranean as soon as special aircraft is serviceable and weather is suitable.
(V.A. Malta 1015/25 to Admty).

Patrols.
Crete.

Standing Patrol in Kithera and Anti Kithera Channel has been established by Corvettes. One A/S Trawler R. Elaphonisos Channel will be relieved by a Greek T.B. S.B.N.O. Suda Bay inform Mediterranean Fleet of date of relief. Orders for these Patrols are contained in Mediterranean 00211/5 of 21/1 in course of distribution. T.O.O.1151/25.
(C. in C. Med 1153/25 to Med. Fleet).

/Air.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Air Report.

Summary No. 229 up to 1200 hours 25/1 1941. Egypt. Night 23/24 Jan. 2 Wellingtons dropped 5000 lbs of bombs on Maritza aerodrome Rhodes starting small fires. Day 24/1. Following operations undertaken to prevent enemy air attack on special convoy during passage Malta to Alexandria. 5 Blenheims dropped 500 lbs. of bombs on Sidi Magrun landing ground damaging 2 aircraft 8 Blenheims bombed dispersed aircraft on Soluch landing ground no damage reported. 8 Blenheims bombed Maraua landing ground. Hurricanes patrolled between Mechili and Martuba, enemy aircraft encountered, 1 Hurricane missing.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1216/25).

Rhodes bombed.

Protection of Convoy.

Operation "Inspection" ILLUSTRIOUS.

ILLUSTRIOUS has arrived Alexandria.
(C. in C. Med., 1351/25 to Admty).

Enemy Ships.

Aircraft report at 1110A/25 5000 ton laden motor ship escorted by auxiliary(ies) 037° 40', 011° 42' course 225° 15 knots.
(V.A.(S) Malta 1433/25 to UPHOLDER).

ILLUSTRIOUS.
SOUTHAMPTON.
A/C attacks on 10/1.

Your 1531/25.
(A) Attacks on Mediterranean Fleet on 10/1 were made as follows:-
1223 T/B attack by 2 T/B aircraft on Battle Fleet.
1235 Upwards of 25 Ju. 87 and 88 made D/B attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS, Battle Fleet and Cruisers.
1330 H.L.B. attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS.
1600 - 1700 Upwards of 30 aircraft made D/B attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS and Battle Fleet.
1920. T/B attack on ILLUSTRIOUS off Grand Harbour.
The torpedoes dropped in the T/B attacks all missed and the H.L.B. attacks obtained no hits and did no damage. The D/B attacks obtained 6 hits on ILLUSTRIOUS, 3 on SOUTHAMPTON, 1 on GLOUCESTER (unexploded) and caused slight damage by near misses to WARSPITE and VALIANT.
The only attempt at synchronisation of T/B with D/B attacks appears to have been in the case of the first attacks.
Fighters did not intercept in first D/B attack as they were chasing T/B aircraft.

/To.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

ILLUSTRIOUS.
SOUTHAMPTON.
A/C attacks on 10/1.
(contd).

To this extent attempt at synchronisation if such was made, appears to have achieved considerable measure of success.
Two confirmed casualties obtained in first D/B attacks with gunfire, but fire discipline reported not good. Importance of special fire distribution officer or rating at each close range weapon received further emphasis.
In second D/B attacks 6 confirmed JU.87 and 4 S.87 plus 1 and 4 respectively unconfirmed are claimed by Fulmars.
Further remarks (technical).
Fleet Order summarising all experience gained to date and including this change of principle will be issued shortly.
(D.T.S.D. 1639/25 to C. in C. M.F).

Malta Air Report.

X.5525. Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 25/1. All times G.M.T.
At 1010 sighted M/V 5,000 tons escorted by fleet auxiliary position 37° 40'N. 11° 42'east, course 225° speed 15 knots appeared heavily laden. Naval authorities informed.
1003 to 1010 a Junkers 88 flew over Island at considerable height evidently on reconnaissance as no bombs dropped. Two Hurricanes up. No interceptions.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1700/25).

Italian European prisoners skilled in building and engineering trades may be required for employment in U.K. Such prisoners should not repeat not be transferred to India without reference to us.
(W.O. 1800/25 to C. in C. M.E.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MEW.
Intelligence
Centre.
Bahrein.
Contraband.

Re. Adty 1701/6/10/40.
(1) Can information be given when M.E.W. Intelligence Centre Bahrein will be established (?) numerous reports of contraband received from Indian censorship (some details).
(C. in C.E.I 0500Z/25).

Convoy
B.N. 13.

Due Suez today. 39 ships with supplies for Middle East, total gross tonnage 200,000. Rear-Adm. Clegg Commodore.
(D.S. 508, 25/1).

ANTENOR
Convoy
B.N.F. one.

Cancel my 1306/22 ANTENOR is to proceed overtake B.N.F. one and reinforce escort as far as 055° E. and then return to Bombay for boiler cleaning.
(C. in C. E.I., 0709Z/25 to ANTENOR.).

Force V.
CANBERRA.
LEANDER.
SYDNEY.
COLOMBO.
PEARLEAF.
Search for
Raider.

(i) Ships are to search following area, speed being adjusted to cover as much as possible in daylight. It is estimated that each ship can reach its area by daylight 26/1.
(ii) CANBERRA in area enclosed by following points.
A. 004° 30'N. 063° 40'.
B. 003° 10'N. 063° 10'.
C. 001° 30'N. 067° 50'.
D. 000° 40'N. 066° 50'.
(iii) LEANDER in area enclosed by points C. and D. above and E. 002° 00'S. 069° 40' and F. 002° 10'S. 068° 20'.
(iv) SYDNEY within a radius 300 miles from Davis Point 004° 18' S. 061° 00'. bounded by line of bearing 340° and 050° from Davis Point.
(v) COLOMBO is to patrol along a line between 001° S. 059° E. and 003° 30'S. 053° E. speed 14½ knots.
(vi) Oiler PEARLEAF will be in the vicinity 1½° Channel a.m./27.
(C. in C. E.I. 0710Z/25 to Force V).

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 25.1.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Enemy Unit. Your 1832/23. Frequency 5315 kcs. No preamble heard. Text presumed 4 letter code groups last moteorological. Station only heard WLIX.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0721Z/25 to Admty).

R.N.V.R. Kenya. Tanganyika Zanzibar. (1) In order to obtain maximum efficiency in local Naval Defence operations in East Africa and Zanzibar, the Naval Volunteer Force in Kenya Tanganyika and Zanzibar, while maintaining their respective indentities, are available to act in conjunction on any particular operation (such as mine clearance, coastal patrol) at my discretion.
(2) N.O.I/C East Africa and Zanzibar will direct these forces when taking combined action, and as my representative, is impowered to act for me in an emergency requiring immediate co-ordinate action in area. He will dso act as adviser on minor Naval matters to Governor Kenya Tanganyika the British Resident Zanzibar.
(3) Colonial Office is in touche with above Authorities concerning means for removing any legal difficulties.
(C. in C. E.I. 0730/25 to N.O.I.C. Kilindini, R.O's Zanzibar, Dar-es-Salaam, Tanganyika).

Ships for B.N. Convoys. Cancel my 0708/26/12. Ships for B.N. convoys should be sailed at best speed as and when ready.
(C. in C. E.I. 0724/25).

Convoy B.S.13½. Sailing telegram 0600 G.M.T./25. Ships.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 0914/25).

Interception of Japanese Ships. My 0612/23 (i) YAMAHUZI MARU passed Singapore 1700/23 bound for Bahrein. C. o.S. Singapore reports nothing known of GOSEIMARU.
(ii) Intend therefore that previous orders for intercepting GOSEIMARU should be taken as applying to YAMAHUZI MARU instead. Please inform censorship authorities.
(C. in C. E.I. 1002/25 to Admty).

/Port.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.1.1941.
Saturday. -

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Port Sudan.

Re use as transhipment port.
(C. in C. E.I. 1144Z/15)
See Operations Volume.

Convoy U.S. 8.

Date vessels leave Suez in B.S. F.2. etc.
(S.S.T.O. Egypt 1215/25 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
See Operations Volume.

Force K.

FORMIDABLE and HAWKINS will form Force K. temporarily while on passage to Aden.
(D.O.D. (F) 1320/25 to C. in C'S).

Troop Movement.

In view of M.B. Melbourne 2010/24 is it possible to allocate any other ships for the move referred to in S.S.T.O. India's 1517/20 which Admiralty inform me is an urgent necessity. Fast ones are specially desirable so that they may if possible reach Durban by 10/2. Is DOMINION MONARCH available?.
(C. in C. E.I. 1420/25 to F.O.C.R.I.N.).

Your 2247/18 and S.S.T.O. India 1517/20. Can CHRISTIAN HUYGENS be used if she can be got to Durban in time.
(C. in C. E.I. 1424Z/25 to D. of S.T).

W.S.5B. release of 2 Ships.

D. of S.T's 2247/18. Will NIEUW HOLLAND be available and can you suggest any other ship (ii) Admiralty attaches greatest importance to release of ships for meat trade.
(C. in C. E.I. 1422Z/25 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

Storage of wheat at Burdur Shapur.

Your 0626/15. Ask censorship to pass this information to Legation at Teheran.
(D.E.W.D. 1445/25 to S.O.I. Bombay).

/S.S.KYRIAKI.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

S.S.KYRIAKI on fire.

(Greek) here with fire in bunkers. Fire now out discharging bunkers and coal cargo.(N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 1554z/25.)

NYMPHE
EVOIKOS.

Greek ships NYMPHE and EVOIKOS due Aden shortly for orders are to be sent to Piraeus. (D.F.D. 1944/25 to N.O. S.O. Aden.)

Mogadishu.

Proposed operation. (D.of P., 1946/25. to C. in C. E.I.)

Whalers, Renaming.

Your 1210/S/11. Proposed named approved. (Head of P. Branch, 2034/25 to C. in C. E.I.)

Operation "B reach".

So Force K. 2159Z/25. See Operations Volume.

Flying Boat Bases.

Mombasa, Durban, Ceylon etc. Plans, (Air Ministry X.135, No.[illegible].O./25/. See Operations Volume.

China.

S.S. PINA.

(Greek) Suspicious circumstances. Meantime am holding ship at Hong Kong. (N.O.I.C. Hong Kong 0415Z/25 to D of S.T.)

America & West Indies.

KING GEORGE.V.

Movements. (KING, GEORGE V. 0121/25.) See Operations Volume.

KING GEORGE V. arrived Annapolis 1500/24. Passengers landed satisfactorily. Ship refuelled and fresh provisioned and sailed 1,000/25. (N.A. Washington 1350/25.)

S/M sighted 19/1.

My 1068/25 S/M report should be treated with reserve. Navy Department consider reliability of source poor. (N.A. Washington 1010/25.)

/Examination.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

Examination of mail from Portuguese and Spanish ships.

Your 1651/2/12, and 2048/3/12. No Portuguese or Spanish ships have yet made calls at Bermuda. Request information whether these ships are likely to carry mails and be required to call. (C. in C. A.W.I, 1002/25 to Adty.)

Contraband Control at Bermuda.

My 1052/5. Situation regarding vessels of American Export Line arriving Bermuda from Lisbon is still most unsatisfactory. Proposal. (11) S.S. EXCAMBION which passed through Bermuda recently carried 15 passengers whose names did not appear on list approved by British passport control Lisbon. My 1532/10. Consul Lisbon had informed me by telegram of some of these, but his list was inaccurate and incomplete. Passive obstruction on part of ship's officer in producing passengers for examination was experienced. As examination of passengers is at present exercised by Bermuda Government, full control is not in my hands, but would be glad of Adty's view as to whether detention of U.S. Ship for a short period as a lesson is considered desirable in the event of further obstruction.(C. in C. A.W.I. 1012/25.)

Japanese mediation in Thai-Indo-China dispute.

Task Force, orders.(N.A. Washington 1011/25.)

The presence of this strong force at Camranh Bay, as well as providing an advanced base in the South, will ensure that Japan's settlement of the Thai - Indo China dispute is accepted without demur.

Diversion of shipping.

Your 1640/23 and 1722/11/11/40. Can it be assumed that accurate lettered positions are to be given on all Ocean Routes reported, thus enabling authorities abroad as well as at home to divert any ship clear of some dangerous area.(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1132/25.)

/WESTLAND.....

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

WESTLAND.	H X 106. My 1544/25. (advance sailing telegram). Dutch ship WESTLAND carrying one Lockheed and 3 Douglas Bombers. (C.O.A.C. Halifax 1545/25. to Admty.)
Convoys T.C.9. H.X.106.	Your 1635/23, para. 3 and my 1511/10. More satisfactory employment of available capital ships will now result from the use of ROYAL SOVEREIGN for T.C.9. RAMILLIES would escort H.X.106. Intend to arrange accordingly. (F.O.C. 3 B.S. 1620/25. to Adty.)
COMORIN ASCANIA.	Halifax departure 25/1. COMORIN for Bermuda, ASCANIA ocean escort? H X 105. (F.O.I. Halifax 1735/25 to Admty etc.)
PORPOISE SURCOUF.	B.S.3. 1902/24,(ASCANIA and PORPOISE as Ocean Escorts for H.X. 105.) Is the return of PORPOISE to U.K. in accordance with Admiralty wishes? SURCOUF will probably be worked up and ready to sail about 20/2. PORPOISE is due to refit about mid April. My 1914/13/1 and para. 3 of my No. 116/SM0028 of 23/1. refer. (F.O.(S) 1941/25. to Admty.)
Halifax Escort Force & Northern Patrol.	R.A.3.B.S. 1953/25. See Operations Volume.
Dutch Tankers.	New Zealand. Your 08032/17, no objection as regards Area Eleven. Request consideration may be given to use of Dutch Tankers for oiling by Naval Units in cases of emergency., (N.2.N.B. 2202/25.)

MOST SECRET.

26. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TRIFELS. Now S.S. SAINTE LOUISE (F.O.C.M.A. 1136/25.) See North Atlantic.

ADANA. Completed discharging cargo at Genoa on 21/1. Ship was previously refuging at Cagliari, Sardinia, not known when she moved to Genoa. (D.S.509.)

ACHAIA. At Trieste, reported to her owners at Bremen on 23/1, she had no engine-room defects, but was without engine - room personnel and urgently requiring an engineer and a cook. (D.S. 509.)

SULLBURG. Completed docking at Cartagena on 21/1 and is now loading iron ore.(D.S.509.)

NORBURG. Arrived Istanbul 24/1. (N.C.S.O. Galata 1321/25.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MARCO POLO. Stated by The Times Special Correspondent to be a burnt out wreck in harbour. (Times 25/1. D.S.509.)

MAYA. Departure in ballast for Batoum.(Vice Consul, Varna, 1214/25.)

MOST SECRET.

25. 1. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA. — See South Atlantic.

JEAN L.D. — My 1135/24. Ship was routed to keep at least 300 miles from coast. Master instructed to destroy ship if sighted and resist a boarding party. He considered lightly loaded ship difficult to scuttle and contemplated setting fire to ship. Not clear why no action taken possibly due to distance from coast coupled with dislike of these instructions. Ship took 400 Senegalese troops from Casablanca to Dakar and refused to take 600 Senegalese troops from Dakar to (Madagascar) as ship not suitably fitted for troops. Master pro De Gaulle. Gave following information:- Shipping. The bi-monthly sailing referred to started with VILLE-DE-VERDUN which sailed from Marseilles 18/11.

Ref. to French Ships trading between Dakar and Marseilles, which he declares have already delivered 30 cargoes of ground nuts at Marseilles, he is most definite that 60% are commandeered by German authorities. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1203.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep for HIPPER

Photographs today showed the HIPPER class cruiser still in dock at Brest and that the Dock was being flooded. KENYA and all available destroyers in Western Approaches and Portsmouth Command were ordered to raise steam and sweep towards Ushant, in the anticipation that HIPPER may proceed to sea tonight.

Two submarines were ordered to patrol off Cherbourg, and two west of Ushant, where TAKU is patrolling.

A Hudson with special equipment was despatched to patrol off Brest. Air attack on HIPPER at Brest was ordered for tonight but had to be cancelled on account of bad weather.

Sweep for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU (See 25/1)

Air reconnaissance in Denmark Strait today was negative. Visibility was good.

British Air Activity

Offensive operations by Coastal Command aircraft last night were cancelled on account of bad weather. Routine patrols today were curtailed for the same reason.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping in Thames Estuary

Convoy F.N. 92 was repeatedly attacked this afternoon in the Thames Estuary. SS BELGIA was set on fire and abandoned, and drifted ashore at Frinton. Convoy F.S. 95 was also attacked several times and SS CATTFORD was damaged. A.P. Drifter FISHER BOY was also bombed, in the Wallet During these attacks at least two enemy aircraft were shot down, several ships probably participating in their destruction.

/SS MERIONES...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS MERIONES, ashore on Haisboro Sands was attacked again today. One of the trawlers acting as guard, GALVANI hit the attacking aircraft, which crashed subsequently at Horsey.

Mining

Bad weather caused minelaying operations by Coastal Command to be cancelled last night.

SS BEEMSTERDYK was mined this morning 12 miles west of the Smalls.

M/S Trawler BERVIE BRAES was slightly damaged by the detonation of a mine off Falmouth.

Several mines were exploded today off Spurn Point. Mines were also detonated in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

Mediterranean

Tobruk

A channel has been swept into the harbour which is now open to sea traffic. The army are proceeding with the installation of A.A. and Coast defences. The SAN GIORGIO is completely gutted. There are a number of sunken vessels in the harbour and considereble damage has been done to the quay and cranes. The internal communications are efficient.

vermutlich TERROR museum as Guardship.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

26.1.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

SS SONTAY Intercepted

Force T intercepted Vichy French SS SONTAY this afternoon in the southern Indian Ocean and put an armed guard from ENTERPRISE on board. The SONTAY carries troops as well as cargo and mails for Dakar and France. S.O.Force T is escorting her towards Durban for the present.

Operation "Breach"

S.O.Force K in FORMIDABLE with HAWKINS left Simonstown early this morning.

MOST SECRET.

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26.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. — At 1130/26. (D.C. 1158/26).
At 2330/26.(D.C. 2345/26).

Exercise "Victor". — Following particulars to reach Admty by 31/1
Meeting will be held at Admty. 1115/7/2.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1616/26).

Movements.

KELLY, KASHMIR. — Arrived Plymouth 1110/25.
(C.in C. W.A. 0031/26).

BOREAS. — Sailing postponed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore 0913/26).

ULSTER MONARCH. — Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1000/26).

Western Patrol. — MARSDALE take R.3 - S.3. MANISTEE take R.2. - S.2.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1142/26).

J.3968. — Am sailing MAORI, DOUGLAS, MEYNELL, COTTESMORE p.m./26 and NIGERIA a.m./27 to Liverpool for J.3968.
(R.A.D.H.F. 1422/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Intend sailing J.3968 for Rosyth escorted by NIGERIA, MAORI, DOUGLAS, MEYNELL and COTTESMORE 1200/28. Speed of advance 15 knots approx. E.T.A. May Island 1215/30. Gun trial Liverpool Bay 1400 to 1800/28, North Minch onwards 1400 to 1800/29, between Aberdeen and May Island 0900 to 1200/30.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1516/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Request fighter escort (a) 1 Battleship 1 Cruiser 4 Destroyers (b) 0900/28 to 1530/30. (c) escort (d) Leaves Princes stage 0900/28. Bar L.V. 1200/28 thence 288° to 004° W. speed 9 knots. Thence to Rosyth. Route.
(F.O. Liverpool 1615/26 to H.Q.F.C.)

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1043/22. C.in C. W.A. is requested to provide A/S escort as far as vicinity of Scapa.

2. C.in C. H.F. requested to provide such surface ship escort as may be available throughout the passage.

3. A/S escort for onward passage should, in the absence of orders from C.in C. H.F. be detailed by R.A.(D) using such destroyers as may be available.

4. R.A.(D) is requested to arrange necessar R/V for relief A/S escort.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1614/26).

433. Admiralty 1614/26. A/S escort to vicinity of Scapa. HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS from Liverpool. JACKAL to R/V from Londonderry as arranged by F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

(2) HIGHLANDER is available for onward escort and is to proceed to Tyne on completion.

(3) HAVELOCK, HESPERUS refuel at Scapa and meet B.H.X.104.

(4) JACKAL proceed to Clyde from Scapa R/V.
(C.in C. W.A. 1647/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

Destroyers under your orders return to harbour.
(S.O.Destroyers 2032/26 toMAORI).

Admiralty 1614/26. para.2. Intend sailing CURACOA to R/V J.3968 noon 28th and NIGERIA to relieve CURACOA daylight 29th by which time NIGERIA's defects will be completed. My 1422/26 to C.in C. H.F. is cancelled.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2312/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

558. F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1045/23 and 1614/24 Admiralty 1614/26 attached. CURACOA proceed passing Switha 0600/27 to R/V with J.3968 at noon 28/1 off Bar Light Vessel.

2. Provide escort until relieved by NIGERIA.
(R.A.D. 2335/26 to CURACOA).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines tonight. 3 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1436/26).

WOLFE, CIRCASSIA. — Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N.P.'s 1230/24.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1540/26).

5th M/L.F. — My 1746/24. Request sailing of 5th M.L.F. may be delayed until M.L.140, now completing is in service. M.L.140 should be ready on 3rd February.
(R.A.C.F. 1614/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Sweep for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Scapa departures 0030/26. C.in C. H.F. in NELSON with RODNEY, REPULSE, EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, PHOEBE, NAIAD, AURORA, ARETHUSA, GALATEA, BEDOUIN, PUNJABI, MATABELE, PIORUN, TARTAR, KEPPEL, ESCAPADE, ELECTRA, ECHO, BRILLIANT, BEAGLE. (A.C.O.S. 0117/26).

Sweep for ADMIRAL HIPPER.

Raise steam with all available destroyers and KENYA.
(D.O.D.(H) 2102/26 to C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. Portsmouth).

Anticipated HIPPER may proceed to sea tonight making to eastward. Proceed with destroyers to position 270 Casquets 11, and carry out a sweep towards Ushant to intercept, timing your arrival off Plymouth, 1030/27. Fighter protection will be arranged.
(C.in C. W.A. 2231/26 to C.S.10).

Establish following Patrols.
(F.O.S. 1934/26 to PANDORA, L.27).
See Submarines.

One Hudson with special equipment to patrol off Brest.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2048/26).
See British Air Activity.

Submarines.

WILK, UNDAUNTED, SEALION.

Following S/M movements taking place today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0314/26).

THUNDERBOLT OLYMPUS.

Estimated position 0800/26.
(Capt: S.2. 0813/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

SEALION.	Sailed for exercise and patrol. (S.6. 0900/26).
UNDAUNTED.	Sailed from Dundee 1030/26 for Methil. (S.9. 1129/26).
TAKU.	My 1036. TAKU is to proceed to North Western part of her patrol Zone now. (F.O.S. 1221/26 to S/M's Area B).
TORBAY.	Arrival Clyde escorted by WHITEBEAR. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1245/26).
PANDORA.	Trawler KINGSTON CHRYSOBERYL will R/V with you at 0900/27 180° St. Catherines 5 miles. (S S. 1455/26 to PANDORA).
L.27.	S.S's 1855/25. Sailed. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1505/26).
Positions.	At 0800/27 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1534/26 and 1737/26).
SEALION INTREPID.	Arrived Blyth. Trial unsatisfactory in spite of INTREPID being fitted 10 K/C oscillator. Maximum range obtainable 3 miles medium weather conditions. Not considered further trials useful in view of limited time available due to light conditions. Request instructions for INTREPID and SEALION. (S.6. 1540/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (Contd.)

Cancel my 1011/22 and my 1333/19. Intend sailing SEALION at 0900/27 routed gap A and positions 56° 56'N., 00° 12'W., 61° 05' N., 02° 04'E.
For patrol of Stadtlandet unescorted on the surface to Gap A thence diving by day.
(S.6. 1801/26).

Total Bombing Restrictions.

Ops. 135 26/1. Institute total S.B.R. area 24 from 0400/27 to 1200/27. Clyde Sanctuary from 1800/27 to 0800/28. Portsmouth Sanctuary from 0800/27 to 1200/27. Dartmouth Sanctuary from 0900 to 1700 daily from 27th to 31st inclusive. Forth Sanctuary from 1100 to 1600 daily from Monday to Friday each week until further notice commencing 27/1.
(H.Q.C.C. 1605/26).

PANDORA
L.27.

A. There is a possibility HIPPER Class Cruiser may leave Brest today Sunday and proceed up Channel keeping close to French Coast.

B. Establish patrols as follows. PANDORA within 8 miles radius of position 49° 53' N., 01° 48' W. L.27 within 8 miles radius of position 49° 53' N., 01° 14'W.

C. Submarines are not to be attacked unless definitely established as being hostile.
(F.O.S. 1934/26 to PANDORA L.27).

THUNDERBOLT,
OLYMPUS,
TAKU.

HIPPER Class Cruiser may leave Brest tonight Sunday. THUNDERBOLT establish patrol in vicinity 48° 05' N., 05° 45' W. OLYMPUS establish patrol in vicinity 48° 30'N., 06° 50' W.

TAKU is patrolling vicinity 47° 40'N., 06° 50' W. Submarines are not to be attacked unless definitely established as hostile.
(F.O.S. 2204/26 to THUNDERBOLT, OLYMPUS.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Shooting down of own Aircraft.

Your 1850/17. Air Ministry report 1435/24 that aircraft in question (a) had under carriage down (b) fired correct recognition signal after which A.A. fire was continued. Request you further investigate and report. (A.C.N.S.(H) 0014/26 to C.in C. Nore).

Your 1435/24. Understand date should read 17 Jan.

2. Following received from C.in C. Nore 17/1/41. Begins. N.O.I.C. Lowestoft reports at 1130 during alert, when military had been warned enemy aircraft approaching, single Wellington A/C flew at about 600 feet over centre of town from W. to S. Military opened fire, A/C turned North close to ships berths. Ships opened fire. Ends.

3. C.in C. Nore has been asked further to investigate in light of your message.

4. Report will be forwarded. Meanwhile request attention of all pilots concerned and Officer responsible for routing aircraft may be directed to S.D.158 (1) Section 34 articles I and II.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 0015/26 to Air Ministry).

Patrols.

Following additional patrols ordered today. Times to take off.
HORNLI 1030, BERT 0645, TROST 0845, STAB, 0855, UNST 0900.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0338/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Patrol HORNLI cancelled for today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0934/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

This afternoon two battle aircraft will fly up Denmark Straits from Staalberghuk Light to Itraumnes Light keeping within sight of land and thence to position 067° 10'N., 023° 10'W. subsequently returning to Kaldadarnes.
(F.O.Iceland, 1141/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

514. Cipher 26/1. Your 98711 (M.O.8) 25/1. Battles patrolling Denmark Straits today as requested.
(C.O.C. Iceland 1331/26 to War Office.

O.516/26. My O.514/26. Denmark Straits between general limit 67° (?North) and 65° 30' (?North) and Iceland and 25° 30' W. patrolled 26th between 1305 and 1405 and 1455 and 1730 hours B.S.T. Nothing significant seen. View beyond 50 miles from coast restricted by fog but visibility (?North) and East excellent.
(C.O.C. Iceland 2015/26 to War Office).

Patrol off Brest (HIPPER).

One Hudson with special equipment to carry out a patrol outside Brest in case HIPPER is being sent out from there tonight. This aircraft to leave patrol area at dawn Beauforts to inform Hudson by W/T if HIPPER has left the dock when they arrive. Flares to be carried and dropped by Beauforts.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26 to Admty).

Lorient.

AP/793. 26/1. Available aircraft of No. 217 Squadron to attack tonight U/Boats in Naval Dockyard at Lorient. Alternative target Brest.
(H.Q.C.C. 1145/26 to 15 Group, St. Eval.)

Brest.

All available A/C of 217 Squadron to attack HIPPER-class Cruiser at Brest tonight with Magnums tonight as soon as weather conditions permit.
(Plymouth H.Q.C.C. 2045/26 to Admty).

FURIOUS.

Admty's 1226/23 and my 1828/24. Please explain delays consequent on loading at Tail O' the Bank which are inevitable due to peculiarities of ship. Arrangements at Gladstone Dock Liverpool were admirable.
(FURIOUS 1431/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

812. Squadron. — All available A/C of 812 Squadron are to load up with torpedoes forthwith. They will probably be required at dawn 27/1. Further orders will be sent later. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 2215/26 to N. Coates.)

Enemy Air Activity.

STAD ARNHEM. (Bombed 25/1). — Your 1651/25. No trace of survivors. Have insufficient fuel to remain until daylight, must abandon search at 0200 today. SALVONIA not met. (SKEENA 0145/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

MERIONES. — Departure at 0625/26 KROOMAN to Merriones after coaling. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0710/26).

MOSTYN. — Proceed to stand by SALVONIA endeavouring to locate and tow S.S. MOSTYN bombed and abandoned in 054° 30'N., 014° 52'W. SALVONIA reported in 054° 22'N., 015° 20' W at 1400/25 probably searching further to westward. (C.in C. W.A. 0639/26 to ARABIS).

SALVONIA abandoning search for MOSTYN at dark today and returning to harbour. Endeavour to locate SALVONIA and return to harbour in company. (C.in C. W.A. 1535/26 to ARABIS).

Brest. — W/T detection suggests special German Naval aircraft reconnaissance from Brest today. This may be connected with a movement in that area. (F.O.S. 1036/26 to S/M's, area B).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Use of British Markings.

It has been recently reported that a Folke Wolf Condor aircraft engaged in attacking merchant shipping in N.W. Approaches was carrying British markings. (D.D.I.C. 1147/26).

2 Aircraft over Scapa Flow.

Two enemy aircraft were plotted over the Flow at 1245/26 and at 1420. On first occasion fire was opened by unseen (?Fleet spotting aircraft). Weather conditions low cloud and snow. It is possible on second occasion aircraft saw into the Flow.
(A.C.O.S. 1521/26 to Admty).

Convoy F.S.95.

Enemy aircraft bombing F.S.Convoy in 51° N., 1° 25'E. Course 228 speed 8 knots.
(FLEETWOOD 1520/26).

Convoy F.N.92.

One enemy aircraft position 51° 8'N., 1° 31'E. 3 bombs no hits.
(WESTMINSTER 1530/26).

My 1515 2 bombs no hits.
(GARTH 1535/26).

Convoy F.S.95.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy in 51° N., 1° E.
(WALLACE 1553/26).

3 bombs. 1 JU 88 shot down flames. One unidentified aircraft shot down.
(WALLACE 1601/26).

My 1601. No hit on convoy. JU.88 crashed by B five buoy, wreckage and note book(s) only recovered. Second plane forced landing on East of Barrow probably M.E.110. One body and one prisoner recovered.
(WALLACE 1705/26 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy F.N.92.

Even numbered F.S.Convoy (AOENT) being repeatedly attacked by single aircraft in 51° 56'N., 1° 41'E.
(WESTMINSTER 1625/26).

BECKENHAM.

(British, 4636 Tons). Gunned in 61° 30'N., 21° 19'W.
(Lyness W/T. 2046/26).

WOOLER.

(British 807 Tons) Reported set on fire and considerably damaged by H.E. bomb during air raid on Victoria Wharf, Plymouth not London as previously reported.
(B.M.S.E. 285/27/1.)

A/Cs shot down. Attacks on FISHER BOY and Convoy F.S.95.

At 1656 today F.O.I.C. Harwich reported that A.P. Drifter FISHER BOY, after being bombed at 1600 in the Wallet (no damage) believed she hit the enemy, whose pilot bailed out and was rescued by her.

Shortly afterwards at 1619 the A.P. Drifter REIDS reported having shot down an A/C near B.5 Buoy, and having recovered wreckage. At 1601 WALLACE with F.S.95 reported enemy A/C bombing. At 1705 reported no hits in this attack, and that a J.U. 88 had crashed near B.5 buoy wreckage and a note book recovered. She also reports a second A/C made forced landing on East Barrow probably M.E. 110 one body and one injured prisoner being recovered by her.

It appears likely that the above reports refer to the same two aircraft and that two have definately been brought down. Also an unconfirmed report from S.S. GRANGETOFT that she brought down another near B.2 buoy will be investigated in the morning.
(C.in C. Nore 1949/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

BEEMSTERDYK. Explosion 12 miles 290° . Smalls S.O.S. (Lands End 0927/26).

Still floating approx. 12 miles of Smalls bearing 290° . Sinking slowly. (BEEMSTERDYK 0930/26).

Rescue tug GOLIATH sailed to assist. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1320/26).

Have to abandon ship. (BEEMSTERDYK 1259/26).

Liverpool. At 1000 today three heavy underwater explosions felt disturbed water in position approx. 180° from Bar Light 11 Cables. Sighted by Officer of Watch at third explosion. (CROCUS 1030/26).

Your T.O.7569/40 and my 1845/25. Mine detonated by RUNSWICK BAY at 1000/25. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1500/26).

Thames Estuary. Red mine detonated 272° No.2. Sea Reach Buoy 4 cables, at 0930/26. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1032/26).

A/C Minelaying. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1145/26).

Falmouth. BERVIE BRAES damaged. S.A. gear type A detonated mine at 0925/26 in 50° 7' 53" N., 5° 1' 45" W. Only slight damage to vessel. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1455/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Mining Operation.

Admiralty 1032/16 and 1411/11.

1. Trials by INTREPID and SEALION not successful.

2. In view of importance attached to carrying out operation it is intended to dispense with assistance of SEALION, the decision to lay or not being left to discretion of Commander D.20.

3. When ready IMPULSIVE now at Immingham is to sail to R/V with INTREPID off Blyth, both ships proceeding in company to Scapa.

4. Commander D.20 report S.T.A. Scapa to C.in C. H.F. and A.C.O.S.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1757/26 to C.in C. H.F.)

Spurn Point.

Six mines exploded today by sweepers as follows. Spontaneous explosions occurred at 1240 in 219° Spurn Point lighthouse 0.5 miles and at 1335 in position 244° Spurn Point Lighthouse 2.7 miles.
(F.O. Humber 1849/26).

Enemy Intelligence.

Brest ADMIRAL HIPPER.

My 1129/26. Preliminary reports of photographic reconnaissance of Brest show HIPPER in dock at noon today.
(D.D.I.C. 1312/26 and 1816/26).

There are W/T indications of enemy air reconnaissance in the Brest area p.m. today 26th Jan.

Air reconnaissance shows HIPPER in dock at noon today. Dock was being flooded.
(D.D.I.C. 2052/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Unknown Unit off Bergen.	By D/F at 1606/23 unknown enemy unit probably destroyer or larger vessel, was in the vicinity of Bergen. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C. 1659/26).
M/V off Haugesund.	Aircraft reports M/V about 8000 tons near Haugesund steering 170° 10 knots at 1300. (F.O.S. 1841/26).
TORDENSKJOLD.	My 2002/15. Norwegian TORDENSKJOLD passed through Great Belt Southward in tow on 22/1. Graded A.2. (D.D.I.C. 2158/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 26.1.1941.
Surgey.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

W.N.73. Arrived 0915/26.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0940/26).

Coastal Convoys.

7 ships sailing for Dartmouth. Your 1648/25 addressed C.in C. W.A. these ships cannot be received at Dartmouth until 28/1.
(N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 0952/26).

F.N.89. F.N.89 Tyne ships arrived except Tynemouth.
F.N.90. F.N.90 arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0955/26).

E.N.63.
W.N.76. Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.63 sailing at 0400/28. on meeting transfer to W.N.76 due Cape Wrath 0130/29 and Duncansby 1230/29. Code word for E.N.63 Usage and for W.N.76 Metric.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1000/26 to JASON).

O.B.C. 279. (A) 1930/28.
(B) ARROW, CURACOA, HEARTSEASE, HOLLYHOCK.
(C) 30.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1031/26 to C.in C. W.A.)

W.N.72. Scapa. Departure 1015 CURACOA and HASTINGS for escort of convoy W.N.72.
(A.C.O.S. 1131/26).

F.N.92. Southend 26/1, departures for Harwich with Convoy F.N.92 H.M.T. KINGSTON CLIVINE, AGATE, LORD PLENDER.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1138/26).

F.S.95. Reported in Barrow Deep. 42 Ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1155/26).

MOST SECRET.

26. 1. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

7 m/vs. sailing for Dartmouth escorted by MAID MARION.

Cancel my 1648/25. Dartmouth unable to accept ships until 28/1.(N.C.S.O. Falmouth 1302/26.)

O.B.280.

Sail CRISPIN with O B 280.(C in C.W.A. 1205/26. to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.

5. M.V.'s for E.N.62.

Your 1136/25 2014/25 not to R.A.D. These ships cannot be prepared in time to join EN 62 tomorrow, but could be ready by the 29th. Intend to sail them with next fast convoy expected 31st. As they are large ships of good speed and unaccustomed to British convoys they could be sailed as separate convoy. This course is recommended if escorts can be provided. No suitable trawlers are available at Scapa.(A.C.O.S.1211/26 to Adty.)

O.B.279.

0100/29/1. unescorted. One.(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1220/26.)

E.N.62.

1030/26, H.M.T. INDIAN STAR, Additional escort WESTON. 21 ships. 11 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1223/26.)

F.N.92.

1030/26. 25 ships.(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1226/26.)

3.M.V.'s.

3 M/Vs. and 2 A/S Trawlers Needles to Dartmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1437/26.)

F.N.92. Southend. Ships.(N.C.S.O.Thames, 1447/26.)

F.S.96.

Sailed 1400/26. 19 ships. No ships with Kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1545/26.)

F.S.91.

Humber ships arrived.(N.C.S.O.Humber 1554/26.)

O.E.51.

Sailed WESTCOTT and VOLUNTEER escorting O.E.51. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1600/26.)

F.S.96.

One ship and one H.M.T. from Humber joining at 62D Buoy.(N.C.S.O. Humber 1714/26.

/F.S.96.....

MOST SECRET.

26. 1. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

F.S.96. Ships. (F.O.i/c.)(Tyne 1711/26.)

W.N.74. Passing Rattray Head 2000 speed of advance, 8 knots. (C. & Escort. 1715/26.)

F.S.95. Any ships which cannot enter tonight are to anchor to eastwards of Nore light vessel. (C. in C. Nore 1717/26. to WALLACE, E.D.O.)

W.N.75.(C) Sailed 1600/26, escort NOTTS COUNTY. Four ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1750/26.)

F.N.87, 88,89,90. Humber ships arrived except MARLWOOD and MERIONES. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1556/26.)

F.N.91. Ships & Destinations. (N.C.S.O.Humber 1610/26.)

F.N.92. 5 Ships from Humber joining at 62D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1701/26.)

F.N.91. Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1712/26.)

F.S.94. Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1719/26.)

F.S.96. Ships which sailed. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1728/26.)

F.N.92. Further ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames. 1746/26.)

E.N.61. Arrived less LACKENBY. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1752/26.)

F.N.90. Non arrivals, LA PAMPA, SUSAN MAERSK. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1754/26.)

/M.V.'s for...

MOST SECRET.

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

M.V.'s for Various ports.	Your 1718/25. Arrived less MARI not yet reported.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1754/26. to N.C.S.O. Dartmouth.)
F.S.96.	For F.S. Convoy 96. 29 from Tyne 7 from Sunderland one from Blyth 5 from Middlesborough. (C. in C. Rosyth 1910/26. to WOOLSTON VIVIEN.)
6 M.V.'s	Your 1527/26, sailing at 1630/27. 5 M/VS for Hartland Gap. 1 M/V for Falmouth. Escorts KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and VICTRIX.(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2223/26 to C. in C. W.A.)
F.S.96.	1½ hours late 20 C Buoy. (WOOLSTON 2240/26.)
F.N.92.	5 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2250/26 to WESTMINSTER, COTSWOLD.)
F.S.96.	One ship and one H.M. Trawler from Humber joining at 62D Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2251/26 to WOOLSTON, VIVIEN.
F.S.96.	One corvette in addition to H.M.S.PUFFIN is to be sailed to rendezvous with F.S.96 off Outer Dowsing at 1800/27. Report name of corvette detailed. (C. in C. Nore 2334/26 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.

/Ocean Convoys.....

MOST SECRET.

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

Ocean Convoys.
O.G.M. 51.
ALSEY.

Instruct H.M.S. ALSEY in Convoy O.G.M. 51 to proceed direct to Belfast and embark telegraphist then rejoin convoy.(C. in C. W.A. 0025/26 to LEEDS UNITED.

H.M.T. ALSEY sailed from Milford Haven bound for Freetown without a Telegraphist. Reference my 0025/26 to LEEDS UNITED, request you will detail a Telegraphist to join ALSEY and also route her to rejoin O.G.51. (C. in C. W.A., 0043/26 to F.O.I.C. Belfast.)

O.G.51.

Sailed LEITH and CANDYTUFT escorting O.G. 51. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1100/26. to C. in C. W.A.)

O.G.C.51.
O.G.O.51.

Sailed BLUEBELL and TULIP escorts for O.G.C.51 and O.G.O. 51 respectively (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1145/26.)

H.X.106.

My 1524/25 (1544/25 intended) add following ships.(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1159/26.)

O.G.51.

Sailed 1230/26. 3 ships 7½ knots 1 ship with kite.(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1325/26.)

O.G.O.51.

0530/27/1. Escort TULIP. 6 ships (N.C.S.O. Oban 1558/26.)

H.G.50 and
S.L.S.61.

Add following ships. (N.C.S.O.Oban 1602/16.)(?1602/26.)

O.B.277.

H.X.103.

Corvettes leave O.B.277 in time to meet H.X.103, as in my 1449/24. Destroyers leave in time to meet before dark 27/1. It is anticipated that H.X.103 will be late at R.V. (C. in C. W.A. 1657/26 to WHITEHALL, VISCOUNT, WINCHELSEA, VANQUISHER, GENTIAN.

/H.X.103.....

MOST SECRET.

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys Contd.

H.X.103. — H.X.103 36 hours late. (ROYAL SOVEREIGN 1900Z/26.)

S.L.S.62.
H.G.51. — Extract from Convoy Sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty begins:-
(1) Combined S.L.S. 62 - H.G. 51.
Ships, cargoes, destinations.
(D.T.D. 1950/26.)

H.G.52. — Sailing destinations. (D.T.D.1951/26.)

S.L.62. — S.L.62. meet . SALADIN. SARDONYX, SKATE. MALLOW. ANEMONE. KINGCUP.
(C. in C. W.A. 1957/26.)

H.X.105.
escort. — A.C.N.S.(H) 2316/26. See Operations Volume.

O.G.81. — 2235/26, Not known, 4 Ships,(1 with kites) (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2330/26.)

MILITARY CONVOYS.
ORONTES. — Destroyers are to remain with ORONTES to (? considered) limit of endurance returning to Greenock independently if necessary and reporting position when well clear. (C. in C. W.A. 1447/26.)

S.S. GEORGIC. — S.S. GEORGIC with service personnel for Bermuda speed 18 knots is to sail with special convoy as in my 1655/22. C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange position from which GEORGIC is to proceed independently and onward route. (D.O.D.(H) 1452/26.)

MOST SECRET.

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

NORMAN.	(Tug) Ashore Scroby Yarmouth. (Portishead Radio 0126/26.)
	Sailed. Returning to MERIONES after coaling at 0142. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0204/26.)
	Ashore on South Scroby Sand. Assistance being sent. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0311/26.)
	Reports leaking. Unable to proceed. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0515/26.) Entering harbour at daylight under own steam. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0710/26. to Adty.)
STOKE CITY. (A/S Trawler).	Has proceeded to Aberdeen with defects. (C. in C. Rosyth 0127/26.)
T.L.C.3.	Needs repairs to starboard degaussing cable and repairs probably of a minor nature to engine. (C.O. T.L.C.3. 0157/26.)
RUBENS.	(A/S Trawler) Arrived with compass coil defect which will prevent her sailing in O.C.51. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1305/26.)
SOUTHSEA.	WATERMEYER proceeded to assist Paddle M/S SOUTHSEA, broken down off 20 D buoy, back to Tyne. (F.O.I.C.Tyne 1537/26.)
CATFORD.	Reported aground Oaze Bank. Investigate and report if assistance required. (C. in C. Nore 1637/26 to WALLACE.)
GREYFRIARS.	Intend sailing A/S Trawler CELIA as escort to S.S. GREYFRIARS in tow of tug for Tyne leaving Spurn 1100/28, thence to Methil for onward routing to Tobermory. (F.O. Humber 1908/26.)

/MACGREGOR.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

26. 1. 41.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

MACGREGOR
LAIRD.

(British, 4,992 Tons) 051. 13' N, 025° 01' W. Engines disabled, impossible to effect repairs. Require assistance towage. (?MAPJ. 1915/26. to Admiral Devonport.)

Proceed to assist. Escort is proceeding to this position and will remain with you. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2310/26. to RESTIVE, ASSURANCE.)

SELENE.
(R.A.F. Rescue Boat.)

Grounded whilst entering Ramsey Harbour in S.E. gale, 25/1. N.O.I.C. Isle of Man now reports boat considered total loss. No casualties. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2306/26.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Shipping.

Greek requisitioned ships. Reporting.

For N.C.S.O's. Arrivals and Departures of Greek requisitioned ships bound for Greece to be reported to B.N.A. Athens. Eastern are to be informed that Greek Government directs them not to wire directly to give ships position even to owners. The importance of maintaining W/T silence is again to be stressed.
(D.T.D. 1346/26 to C.in C. Med., M.I., S.A., A.C.N.B).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Bringing in of French Merchant Ships.

My 1903/17. Cancel para. (2) and substitute: (2) If the French warship request or demand release of ships, action is to be taken as at (1) above. If the French warship attack without any demand for release of ships being made, attack should be resisted, action being broken off as required if opposing force is clearly superior. (3) If in any doubt or reinforcements are in the near neighbourhood, a report is to be made to C.in C. S.A. and Admiralty but if no other instructions are received within a reasonable period, action is to be taken as in (1). The intention is to avoid having to engage French warships, the idea being that if British force is overwhelming French will not start action.
(C.in C. S.A. 2115N/26 to S.A.Station 1470).

North Atlantic.

MARON, CAMITO, Completion dates.

Ref: MARON 1630/23. Defects will be completed 3/2 approx.
Ref: F.O.C.N.A. 1032/19. Date of completion of CAMITO is still under consideration but ship will not in any case be available before mid February.
(A.S. Gibraltar 1116/26) .

Submarines.

Position of S/M at 0800/27. OTUS on patrol Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1132/26).

ARK ROYAL.

Your 0126/14. Repairs completed.
(F.O.(H) 1240/26 to Admty)

DUNEDIN.

Re GERANIUM and JONQUIL. Rendezvousing.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/26) See Operations Volume.

Spain.

Bi-weekly report. (N.A.Madrid 1835/26 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Operation "Breach".

Simonstown departure 0300/26 Force "K" for "Breach" in accordance with Admty. 1330/19 and your 1232/21 para 2. Speed of Advance 18 knots.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0330Z/26 to C.in C. East Indies.)

MONARCH OF BERMUDA, CAPETOWN CASTLE.

My 1257/25. Arrival 0738/26. FAULKNOR and FORESTER escorting MONARCH OF BERMUDA and CAPETOWN CASTLE.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 0945N/26).

NEWTON ASH, INNESMOOR, WANDERER.

Southbound ships crossing 20° North. Approx. noon position 27/1 and routes.
(D.T.D. 1134/26 to S.A.Station).

S.S. GOVERNOR.

Tug ATLAS left Lagos 24/1 to go to your assistance. Report at 1800 G.M.T./28 your position at that time.
(C.in C. S.A. 1330/26 to GOVERNOR).

SOBIESKI, KENYA.

Departures 1500/26 DUNEDIN for Gibraltar escorting SOBIESKI and KENYA. Local escorts VELOX and VINDETTE until 30/1 afterwards fuelling Bathurst.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1641N/26).

SARPEDON BATORY.

Left 26/1 for Liverpool and Clyde respectively. Routes.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown 2055/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Cables, Coast of Libya.

W.O.0800/26 to C.in C. M.E.

Air Operations.

My A.855 25/1. Day 25/1. 7 Blenheims bombed dispersed aircraft Maraua landing ground. Further Blenheims bombed Derna and Barce landing grounds. Reports awaited. Reconnaissance reported 17 ships Benghazi.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1119/26).

1730 hours 1 Cant Z 501 approached and flew over Malta for 45 minutes at 2000 feet with navigation lights on. When searchlight exposed it alighted near Comino Island undamaged. 4 crew prisoners. Preliminary interrogation proved Cant lost and signalled base to expose searchlight to aid its return. Our searchlight exposed by chance at psychological moment. Reconnaissances. 0540 to 1330 Sunderland anti convoy patrol eastern Tunisian coast with striking force standing by at 0708 sighted 1 Tug and 7 Barges 72 miles S.W. Lampedusa course 030° speed 4 knots. Striking force not despatched owing existing instructions governing action of aircraft against shipping at sea.
(H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1725/26).

GLASGOW.

C.in C. Med. 1215/26 see Mediterranean Volume.

Operation "Inspection".

My 1351/25. Operation "Inspection" covering ILLUSTRIOUS completed. Enemy aircraft appearing from R.D.F. plotting just to have failed to make contact with her passing across her stern. Ship averaged 25 knots on passage. V.A.L.F. and cruiser failed to make contact owing to amount of high speed of ILLUSTRIOUS and they were attacked from 1710 to 1825/24 by about 12 high Level and 18 dive bombers in position 034° 20'N., 020° 10'E. No damage many near misses. 4 or 5 aircraft possibly damaged.
(C.in C. Med. 1327/26).

MOST SECRET.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Intelligence.	Unassessed report states Italian ships proceeding through Tunisian territorial waters en route to Tripoli. (S.O.(S) Malta Force 1425/26 to UPHOLDER).
USK.	Sabotage discovered on passage Portsmouth - Gibraltar and again Gibraltar - Malta. (V.A.Malta 1813/26).
Situation in Mediterranean - Air raid on Canal area.	By German A/C's from Rhodes took place night 17/18/a.m. 2 Heinkels. Subsequent my force landed near Sollum and crew captured. (C.S.3 1917/26 C.in C. Med. 1935/26). See Mediterranean Volume.
Orders for UPHOLDER.	Proceed area T. UNIQUE reports ship appears to be proceeding D. to C. thence (corrupt group) and unsuccessful attack of C. Jan. 22nd. (S.O.(S) Malta Force 2311/26 to UPHOLDER).
M.N.B.D.O.	Composition of M.N.B.D.O. units sailing for M.E. in W.S.6. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2335/26).

East Indies.

Convoy B.N.F. One.	Bombay departure 0110Z/26 HECTOR escorting B.N.F.One. (S.O.(I) Bombay 0331Z/26).
	List of ships (5) and convoys etc. (N.C.S.O. Bombay 0328Z/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Raider Search. Orders for V. Force CANBERRA, LEANDER, SYDNEY, COLOMBO, PEARLEAF.

My 0710/25. 1. CANBERRA is to leave her area after dark 26/1 and avoid LEANDER'S area proceed to Addu Atoll to refuel adjusting course and speed so as to arrive about 0300Z/28. In absence of any further information of raider CANBERRA on completion of fuelling is to proceed to Freemantle at 25 knots if weather permits.

2. LEANDER is to leave her area on 27/1 so as to arrive Addu Atoll about 0700Z/28 to fuel after CANBERRA.

3. On completion of fuelling at Seychelles on 27/1 SYDNEY is to proceed to Freemantle direct at 20 knots.

4. COLOMBO is to leave patrol so as to arrive at Seychelles to refuel 0400Z/28.

5. Oiler PEARLEAF has been ordered to arrive at Addu Atoll about 0300Z/28.
(C.in C. E.I. 0746/26 to V. Force.

S.S. SONTAY.

Re interception by Force T.
(S.O.Force T.1200Z/26 C.in C. E.I. 1858Z/26). See French Merchant Ships.

B.S.F.1.

My 1420 and 1424/1/25 request very special effort be made to sail DOMINION MONARCH and CHRISTIEN HUYGENS with B.S.F. One.
(C.in C. E.I. 1220Z/26 to S.S.T.O. Port Said).

Sighting of Suspicious Vessel by BEACON STREET.

855. My 0846/24. para two message now cancelled by BEACON STREET in accordance with Admiralty message D.V.
(C.in C. E.I. 1450Z/26.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Convoys.
W.S.5.A.
B.N.F.2.
U.S.8.
S.U.1.

Dates, etc.
(C.in C. E.I., 1908Z/26 to S.N.O. Red Sea, S.B.N.O. Suez Canal).
See Operations Volume.

America and West Indies.

TAMERLANE,
CARADOC,
to cover.

Norwegian TAMERLANE carrying aircraft from New York to Takoradi due to pass 4 miles N.E. of Galera Point Trinidad at 1200Z/27 routed through (a) 007° 00' N., 049° 40' W., (b) 001° 24'N., 007° 35'W. Speed 16 knots. Proceed to cover TAMERLANE returning so as to arrive Trinidad a.m./31.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1021/26 to CARADOC).

Position of AUSTRALIAN STAR.

Your 1900/25 059 40' N., 025 00' W.
(N.C.S.O. Kingston, Jamaica, 1215/26).

S.S. HIE,
(Japanese).

Balboa departure 23/1 HIE Los Angeles en route to Japan. Germans on board.
(S.O.(I) Jamaica 1306/26).

Arrivals and Departures of French Ships at Dakar.

N.A.Washington 1435/26. See French Merchant Ships.

Japanese Schedules.

My 0956/23/11/40. Despite present advertised Schedule it appears that Japanese ships AZUMI and NARUTO operating according to previous schedule. * My 1122/21/12 TAKETOYO sailed Los Angeles 21st Jan. now scheduled to call Curacao Ciudad Trujillo.
(S.O.(I) Kingston, 1729/26).
*(1121/21 intended).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

H.X.105
PORPOISE.

Halifax departure 26/1 PORPOISE ocean escort H.X.105.
(S.O.(I) Halifax N.S.1830/26).

TAHCHEE.

Master of TAHCHEE reports arrived Sydney N.B. 25/9/40 ready to sail for U.K. but no instructions obtainable from N.O.S.O. Please say whether my 1938/10/10 was passed to Sydney for action.
(D.T.D. 1903/26 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

Dutch
Warships,
Fuelling.

Your 0803a/17. General permission for Dutch warships to use harbours and roadsteads in British Australian territory or Mandated Islands for fuelling from Dutch Tankers is granted by Australian Government.
(N.B. Melbourne 0423Z/26 to C.in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

WAR DIARY.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

CAMITO. Completion date.
(A.S. Gib. 1116/26) See North Atlantic.

SONTAY. Vichy French Merchant ship SONTAY 8917 tons intercepted at 1500 D in position 028 56' S., 042 23' E. Ship is from Saigon and Tamatave for Dakar and Marseilles. There are 63 officers and their families and 277 troops on board 6960 tons of general cargo and mails for Dakar and France. Armed guard from ENTERPRISE has been placed on board. Owing to troops intend at present to escort ship with force T in the direction of Durban continuing patrol in meantime pending instructions as to whether she is to be sent to Simonstown with or without escort.
(S.O.Force T 1200Z/26).

S.O. Force T. 1200/26. Can you provide escort from Durban to Simonstown? presuming SONTAY could if necessary remain in examination anchorage at Durban until escort is available.
(C.in C. E.I. 1858 z/26. to C.in C. S.A.)

Arrivals and Departures, Dakar. Following from Navy Dept. From Dakar Jan. 23/1. Arrivals include French OUERGHA carrying 1000 tons sugar plus mixed cargo believed from Bordeaux. SINAIA SAGITTAIRE and DESIRADE with Senegalese troops from Morocco plus 100 general motors trucks. Departures include DAHOMEY and FORT DE VAUX for Casablanca.
(N.A. Washington 1425/26.)

MOST SECRET

26.1.1941.
Sunday

War Diary

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

THELMA (Torpedoed 20/1) — (Straggler from H.G. 50) Arrived Oban undamaged (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1205/25)

Submarines Reported

0730 — British FRAMLINGTON COURT reported (C.3) suspicious U-Boat on surface, 55.30 N., 26. 00 W., (D.S. 508)

1357 — Westward of Ireland, very indefinite position (D.S. 509)

1539 — Possibly N. of Shetlands, very indefinite position (D.S. 509)

In view of U-Boat reported in position 055° 00' W., at 0730 remain in vicinity of convoy as long as possible leaving in time to make rendezvous 1100/26. PEGASUS pass to trawlers for information. (C. in C., W.A., 0937/25 to HEATHER)

Estimated about 050° N., 015° W., bound for Gironde. (F.O. (S) 1359/25 to Submarines on Patrol Area B.)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

German:- 1 probably north of Cape Verde Islands may be homeward bound.
1 may be between Canaries and Cape Verde Islands. Outward.
1 about 49° N., 25° W.,
3 probably in area 50° to 55° N., 15° to 20° W
1 about 55° to 57° N., 21° W.
1 may be about 60° N., and W., of 25° W
2 or 3 more in N.W. Approaches, whereabouts unknown, but 1 may be to N.W., 1 to N.E. and 1 to S.E. of Rockall.

Italian:- 1 has left Las Palmas at 0100/24 homeward.
1 between Azores and Portugal
1 in Canary Islands area
1 about 57° N., 21° W.,
1 about 50° N., 15° W., bound for Gironde
2 more probably west of S.W. of Rockall
(D.D.I.C., 1217/25)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.1.1941.
Sunday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported

1945. My D/F at 1945/26 position of probable German U/Boat was approx. 55° N., and W. of 20° W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 2029/26).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

German.

1 within 100 miles radius of 60° N., 26° W.
1 North of 55° N., near or W. of 25° W.
2 within 150 miles radius of Rockall probably in sector between W.N.W. and N.E. from Rockall.
1 between 55° N., and 57° N., 12° W. and 15° W.
1 between 52° N., and 55° N., 16° W. and 20° W.
1 within 100 miles radius of 34° N., 20° W. homeward bound.
1 within 100 miles radius of 25° N., 23° W. southbound.

Italian.

1 from Las Palmas about 34° N., 10° W. may pass Gibraltar night 27th.
1 within 100 miles of Palma Canaries.
1 within 100 miles radius of 39° N., 17° W.
1 about 47° N., 13° W. bound for Gironde.
2 in N.W. Approaches may be within 100 miles radius of (a) 57 N., 21 W. (b) 56° N., 17° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1350/26).

Submarines Attacked.

0114. By ARABIS. (See 29.1.41.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27. 1. 1941.
Monday.

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for HIPPER

KENYA, KELLY and KASHMIR returned to Plymouth this morning, with nothing to report.

Photographic R.C. of Brest this afternoon was unsuccessful owing to cloud.

An attempt to locate the cruiser at Brest by means of a flare failed owing to low visibility.

Sweep for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU (see 25/1)

Air reconnaissance in Denmark Strait today was again negative.

Enemy Air Activity

There were no reports of attacks on shipping today.

Mining

During the easterly gales from 19/1 to 27/1 2 German floating mines and 112 British were washed ashore between Peterhead and Hartlepool; 31 others were sunk by patrols and 5 unidentified explosions at sea were reported.

H.M.Trawler DAROGAH was mined and sunk in the Thames Estuary today. Other mines were also detonated in the Estuary.

Mines were exploded off Liverpool, the Tyne, in the Bristol Channel Humber, and Firth of Forth.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.1.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

German Aircraft in Mediterranean

It is estimated that there are now between 420 and 430 German aircraft in the Mediterranean. The majority are probably in Sicily, and some at Benghazi and perhaps Rhodes.

F.A.A. Attack on Convoy

Consequent upon a report by a Sunderland on anti-convoy patrol, Swordfish of the F.A.A. with Fulmar escort were today despatched to attack a convoy of 3 ships near Kerkennah Island on the coast of Tunis. They sank one ship, of 4000 tons and probably hit with a torpedo a 6000 ton ship; the third ship escaped. One of these ships was probably the M.V. CARALIS (3510 tons) which at 1420/27 made S.O.S. in 34° 30' N., 11° 50' E., (about 30 miles S.E. of Kerkennah Island) and later reported that she was nearing Tripoli

China

Swedish SS OSCAR GONTHEN broadcast by W/T that she sighted an armed raider with a prize in company in approx 18° N., 147° E at 0300 G.M.T. today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Sweep for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

Early this morning HAIAD was in touch with two unknown ships in 62° 53' N., 16° 40' W., and chased them on course 70°, but lost sight of them shortly afterwards in smoke.

C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH returned to Scapa shortly before midnight today, with RODNEY, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, followed by two destroyers later.

C. in C., H.F. at 1445 today signalled that he was discontinuing the search and intended to return to Scapa Flow a.m./30. Air search today was again blank.

Search for 6 Merchant Ships

Six merchant ships were sighted off Ushant proceeding north at 1248 today. It was expected they would proceed eastward along the French coast. KASHMIR and KIPLING left Plymouth at 1924 to intercept.

A.A. Fire of Convoy Escorts in N.W.Approaches

In order to increase the A.A. fire of Convoy escorts in the N.W.Approaches four more sloops are to be sent to Western Approaches Command from the Rosyth Escort Force.

MOST SECRET.

125

27.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/27 (D.C. 1156/27).

Movements.

J.3968. Adty 1614/26 para 4. R.V. 130° Tiumpan Head 13 miles at 1700/29. Do you concur. (R.A.D. 0035/27 to J.3968).

Your 0035/27. Estimated position at 1600/29 260° Cape Wrath 15 miles. (J. 3968 1300/27).

Requesting fighter escort 0900/28 to 1530/30. Details of movements. (F.O. Liverpool 1617/30).

JACKAL to R.V. 1630/28. Position. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1624/27).

My 1516/26 escort from Liverpool CURACOA, HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK, HESPERUS, JACKAL will R.V. in 053° 45'N. 004 49'W. at 1630/28.
2. CURACOA will be relieved by NIGERIA.
3. HIGHLANDER will continue to escort until May Island thence to Tyne for refit.
4. Remaining escort will be relieved by Home Fleet destroyer in position 260° Cape Wrath 15 miles at 1600/29. HAVELOCK and HESPERUS thence to Scapa Flow to refuel and meet H.X. 104 B. JACKAL to Clyde. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2016/27).

HIGHLANDER. Cancel my 1425/25 (re sailing 1300/27 for Tyne). (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 0230/27).

/WORCESTER.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

WORCESTER. — Capt. (D) 16 in WORCESTER is to sail for Sheerness to arrive before dark today Monday. (C. in C. Nore 1001/27).

Keep in Southern part of Admiralty mess. Q.Z.8. 202 between B.2 Buoy and South Oaze Buoy. (C. in C. Nore 1303/27 to WORCESTER).

Screen for KING GEORGE V. — Adty 1024/21. 4 destroyers are to be sailed to provide A/S screen to Scapa for KING GEORGE V. from (position). (C. in C. H.F. 1106/27 to R.A.D. H.F.).

EMPRISE and H.M.D. SEVEUR DE MONDE. — My 0945 vessels returned to harbour owing to weather. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1108/27).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines occupied tonight. (5 trawlers). (A.C.O.S. 1519/27).

FURIOUS. — FURIOUS reports:- Adty 1226/23 and 1826/22. Re berthing.

(11) Regret only 12 boilers serviceable - but these should enable 22 knots to be maintained to limit of endurance. Heavy loss of feed water necessitates evaporators being employed solely on making up feed. Fresh water rationed and none for washing. Therefore request ship be allowed to proceed with escort at best speed rather than long passage in slow convoy. Most desirable fuel Gibraltar both for endurance and seaworthiness when very light. 1828/24 Ends.

(5) Ship is expected to arrive Clyde about 4/2.

(6) Date on which ship will be ready to sail should be reported as soon as this is known. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2354/27 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

MOST SECRET.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Sweep for HIPPER.

Plymouth 26/1 departures 2320 KELLY KASHMIR.
(C. in C. W.A. 0041/27).

Plymouth 26/1 departure 2310 KENYA.
(C. in C. W.A. 0059/27).

Exercises today Monday are to be carried out as in my 1642/25.
(C. in C. W.A. 0801/27).

All Exercise today cancelled. KENYA, KELLY and KASHMIR return to Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 0901/27).

Your 2231/26. Nothing to report.
(C.S.O. 0944/27 to C. in C. W.A.).

Arrivals. 1105 KENYA 1145 KELLY KASHMIR.
(C. in C. W.A. 1205/27).

My 2102/26. Vessels concerned are to revert to one hour's notice for steam.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2122/27 to C. in C. W.A., C. in C. Portsmouth).

Operation H.C.

Will be carried out. Zero time 2200.
(V.A. Dover 1323/27).

Submarines.

PANDORA.

PANDORA is to leave patrol now and return to Portsmouth proceeding submerged by day. Adjust speed to arrive Portsmouth Sanctuary at daylight/28.

L.27.

At 1800/27 L.27 proceed to patrol within 8 miles radius of position 049° 53'N. 001° 48'W.
(F.O.(S) 0942/27).

THUNDERBOLT.

Cancel my 1707/26 THUNDERBOLT diverted LA MOQUEUSE proceeded Falmouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 1013/27).

Cancel my 0757/24.
(Capt. S2. 1416/27).

/SEALION.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines. (contd).

SEALION. My 1801/26 for off Stadtlandet read in Zone C.5. (S.6. 1022/27).

SEALION left Blyth at 0900/27 routed Gap A and positions 056° 36'N. 000° 12'W. 061° 05'N. 002° 04'E. for patrol is Zone C.5. diving by day.
(Capt. S.6. 1033/27).

Positions. At 0800/27 Addition. (F.O.S.1031/27).

OLYMPUS. Leave Patrol after dark today. You are expected to arrive position W. at 0900 B.S.T./29.
(F.O.(S) 1051/27).

TUNA.
SNAPPER.
LA CAPRICIEUSE. Intend to sail TUNA and SNAPPER escorted by LA CAPRICIEUSE at 0845/29 for vicinity of Bishop Rock, thence (A) TUNA through 49 34 N. 10 32 W. to Southwestwards diving by day north of 48 30 N. Time of entering and leaving N.A. Station and homeward route will be signalled.

(B) SNAPPER south to patrol diving by day.

(C) LA CAPRICIEUSE to Plymouth to Escort TALISMAN to the Clyde.
(Capt. S.2. 1128/27).

021 Netherlands Submarine O21 passes Bell Rock 1800/27 (route) for patrol in zone C.3.
(Capt. S.9 1217/27).

You may encounter Netherlands S/M O21 passing Bell Rock at 1800/27.
(Capt. S.6. 1433/27 to SEALION).

Positions. At 0800/28 and movements for following 24 ho
(F.O.S. 1722/27).

PANDORA. My 1455/26. Amend as follows. 1. Name of escort and date KINGSTON AMBER 28/1.
2. Movements. Nil.
(Capt. S.5. 1850/27 to PANDORA).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Search for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.

Weather permitting Denmark Straits will be patrolled 27th and 28th Jan.
(G.O.C. Iceland Force 0025/27).

Reference Patrol Denmark Strait urgently request continue 27/1 28/1.
(W.O. 0045/27 to G.O.C. Iceland Force).

Result of air reconnaissance in Denmark Straits from Staalberghuk Lt. to Straumnes to 67° 10'N. 23° 10'W. 26/1 was negative. Visibility good.
(D.D.I.C. 1028/27 to C. in C. H.F.).

Fighter Protection.

Request fighter protection in accordance with N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 2228/26. Code word RIVET.
(C. in C. W.A. 0605/27 to H.Q.F.C).

My 2228/26. Postponed 24 hours.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1546/27).

Patrols.

Cancel Sharp weather unsuitable.
(F.O.i/c Portland 1130/27).

Patrol IPOP will be flown this afternoon.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1416/27).

Penalty Areas.

Commencing 0800/28.
(H.Q.C.C. 1870/27).

Search for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.

My 0517/26. Denmark straits patrolled 1200 to 1436/B.S.T./27. Nothing significant seen between Grimsby Island 66° 34'. N. 18° 00' W. and 67°N. 22°W. and 65° 50'.N. 24° 40'W.
(G.O.C. Iceland Force 1945/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air ~~Intelligence~~ Activity.

Attacks on F.N. 92 26/1 S.S. BELGIA bombed.

Following shipping casualties yesterday as results of air attacks.
(1) F.N. 92 - S.S. BELGIA reported bombed near Sunk L. V. about 1620 - abandoned and on fire - survivors being taken to Rosyth in COTSWOLD.

BELGIA reported drifted ashore at Frinton this morning fire apparently extinguished - investigating possibilities of refloating.

F.S. 95. S.S. CATFORD bombed.

(2) F.S. 95 - S.S. CATFORD damaged (details not yet known) about 1600/26 anchored for night near South Oaze Buoy. Two survivors (one injured) in FLEETWOOD - remainder of crew remaining on board, one slightly injured. Ships reported in tow 1000/today and will be brought up Thames.
(C. in C. Nore 1040/27).

LURIGETHAN. TEMPLE MEAD.

H.G. 50 and S.L. 61 MILOS arrived with survivors. 20 from S.S. LURIGETHAN and 18 from S.S. TEMPLE MEAD.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 1235/27).

ESPERANCE BAY.

Fighters have left for Convoy HATCH (ESPERANCE BAY).
(Rosyth 1427/27).

Following has been read AN 301. One enemy A/C in sight of Convoy HATCH (ESPERANCE BAY) my position May Island.
(VALOROUS 1535/27).

Negative Fighters despatched to convoy HATCH (ESPERANCE BAY).
(Rosyth 1519/27).

/Attacks.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air ~~Intelligence.~~ Activity. (contd).

Attacks on Shipping in Thames Estuary 26/1.

1. My 1949/26 Master of S.S. GRANGETOFT reports that at 1555/26 he saw a destroyer shoot down an aircraft. At 1608/26 off No. 11 Barrow buoy a twin engined aircraft approached his starboard side from the Northward and passed overhead. Aircraft was engaged by GRANGETOFT with Lewis and Hotchkiss guns and brought down in position 030° 2½ cables from N. 11 Barrow buoy. Two men climbed on to tail. S.S. LADY OLGAR next ahead and Norwegian S.S. ASK next astern confirm destruction.

2. Although this may be a third aircraft destroyed it is considered more likely that only two were brought down several ships participating in their destruction. (C. in C. Nore 1723/27).

Markings of German planes.

Your 1147/26. A Fighter pilot recently contacted enemy aircraft bearing markings at first thought to be British. Further inspection showed marking to be swastika on circular white background. Suggest marking of Focke Wulf Condor likely to be similar. Would be appreciated therefore if your signal under reference could be suitably amended to allay suspicion of British markings.
(Air Min 1740/27 to Adty).

S.S. MERIONES. attacked A/C brought down.

F.O.I.C. Yarmouth reports:- At approx 1620/25 an enemy aircraft attacked S.S. MERIONES ashore on Haisborough Sands, whilst circling to deliver attack and at an altitude of about 800 feet she came under heavy fire from A/P trawlers STRATHRANNOCK, GALVANI and PHILLIPPE acting as guard for MERIONES. All ships saw shots hit target and she made off Eastwards with smoke coming from her starboard engine apparently crippled. She then dropped her bombs in the sea wide of any objective.
At about 0900/26 another enemy aircraft attacked MERIONES, visibility was bad at the time and she was sighted at about 700 feet by GALVANI over which ship she flew. GLAVANI opened fire with 12 pounder and machine guns and a large number of bullets were seen to hit. The aircraft flew towards the land and subsequently crashed at Horsey. The other two escorting Vessels did not see this A/C on account of low visibility 1745. Ends. (C. in C. Nore 2051/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

S.S. BEEMSTERDYK. (Mined 26/1)

Departure Rescue Tug SEINE to search for S.S. BEEMSTERDYK.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0040/27).

It appears that BEEMSTERDYK is anchored in 60 fathoms in approx. 167 Coningbeg L.V. 50 miles. Assume she steamed into this position coming south. She has reported hercompass out of order and gave her estimated position as 290 degrees Smalls 12 miles. Rescue Tug SEINE is being routed through western extremity of Q Z X 238 when weather moderates and search by M.L.s will be continued.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1208/27).

Sail CAROLINE MOLLER to assistance of BEEMSTERDYK damaged by explosion and reported anchored in position 51° 17'N. 06° 23'W. at 0930/27.
(C. in C. W.A. 1215/27 to F.O.I.C. Falmouth).

Cancel my 1208/27.
(Milford Haven 1931/27).

Mines off Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/26. Three mines detonated 270' Bar Light Vessel 7½ cables.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1024/27).

IMPULSIVE.
INTREPID.
movements.

Intend sailing IMPULSIVE so as to R.V. with D.20 in INTREPID at 20 R. Buoy at 1800/28 thence to Scapa.
(F.O. Humber 1043/27, 28, N.O.I.C. Blyth 1544/27).

Nore.

My 1127 (Re enemy plane over convoy) 2 mines dropped in position 262° B.2. Buoy 7 cables.
(VANITY 1217/27).

/TASMANIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

TASMANIA.
(mined 24/1).

My 1910/25 (S.S. TASMANIA arrived Leith Roads with damage requiring dry dock for repairs). Part of British Mine recovered on board S.S. TASMANIA.
(N.O.I.C. Leith).

Tyne.

2 Ground Magnetic mines detonated by L.L. Sweep at 1230/27 in position 123° 3 cables Tyne North Pier Light.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1404/27).

Thames Estuary.
H.M.T. DAROGAH.

Detonated mine by S.A. gear 0913/27, off Sea Reach Buoy. Sank.
(Capt. M/S Sheerness 1428/27).

Swansea.

Red mine exploded centre of position 270° distant one mile 8½ cables.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1456/27);

My 1456/27 last line add "from Flatholm".
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1800/27).

Firth of
Forth.

Firth of Forth. Two mines exploded today Inchkeith Light 2500 to 2800 yards wind East 4 sea slight no drifting mines seen in this vicinity at above times nearest vessel danlaying yach SYLVANA underway about two miles to Northward of A. Aircraft believed dropped mines near HERWIT 13/11/40.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1537/27).

Thames Estuary,
H.M.T. HEROINE.

Mines detonated by S.A. gear (1) 1241 /27/1/41. H.M.T. HEROINE. 191 deg No. 1 sea Reach buoy 5 cables.

1. 1258/27/1/41 H.M.T. HEROINE.
4. 074 deg. No. 1 sea Reach Buoy 1/2 cable.
(Capt M/S Sheerness 1538/27).

Humber.

Mine exploded by LL Trawlers at 1317/27 in position 276° 2.5. miles from Spurn Point Lighthouse.
(F.O. Humber 1843/27).

MOST SECRET.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Armed Merchantman off Petsamo.

Re-possible mining off Norwegian coast 29/12/40.
About 4 hours steaming from Petsamo.
Suggest might be armed merchantman referred to in my 1115/3/12 which has not been reported as in this neighbourhood since that date. B.2.
(Petsamo 1311/27).

Note Tel. 1115/12 reads:-
From Petsamo.
S.S. KARIN THORDEN arriving from New York 30/11 was stopped by small German armed merchantmen one mile outside Finnist territorial waters and ordered to proceed to Vardo released after 24 hours. She reports two armed trawlers are no longer there. T.O.O. 1115/3.

Raider Report. By S.S. BEAVERDALE.

RRRR 61 RO5 N. 19528 W. BEAVERDALE suspicious.
(BEAVERDALE 1450/27).

Cancel my 1450/27.
(BEAVERDALE No. T.O.O. Recd. 1622).

Your 1803/27. (Sent By D.S.O. Cancellation of Raider Report from S.S. BEAVERDALE).
Change of watch occurred before cancellation but Wick considers it was from the same station.
(A.C.O.S. 1923/27).

E-Boat.

High Speed Hydrophone Effect. 52° 17'N. 1° 58'E. 1758.
(VANITY 2007/27).

Important.
Indication of E. Boat in a position 52° 17'N. 1°58'E.
(C. in C. Nore 2031/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich, N.O.I.C. Yarmouth, SOUTHDOWN, WHITEHEAD).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Military Convoys.

W.S.5B. — Your 0303/22. W.S.5B. Master of FRANCONIA reports unable to carry sufficient water for voyage from Capetwon to Suez FRANCONIA is therefore being included in Durban portion of Convoy.
(N.O.S.O. Freetown 1507/27).

S.S. CLAN FRASER. — To sail in W.S. 6. (A.C.N.S.(F) 2232/27)
See Operations Volume.

Independant Shipping Information to permit of diversion. — Cancel A.M. 1340/29/10/40 and substitute:-

In order that Admiralty may be able to judge accurately the position of homeward bound independent shipping, it is of the greatest importance that this position at any time and particularly when East of 25° W. and North of 51° N. should be known, accurately by Admiralty. With this object in view Vesca telegrams are to include the date and time at which the ship will cross 51° N. if coming from the southward or 25° west if from the westward.

The date and time of crossing 51° N. or 25° W. is to be settled by the N.O.S.O. and Master in consultation based on an estimate of the time required to reach the arc described in A.M. 1236/7/1 at 0600 B.S.T. with vessel making best speed possible between 51 N. or 25 W. and the arc

The object of stipulating that homeward bound ships should cross this arc at 0600 B.S.T. are (a) they will be passing through what is at present the worst part of the aircraft danger area in dark hours and (b) they will be within fighter protection range when East of the arc.

In order to enable Adty to divert shipping clear of U boats it is of paramount importance that ships should arrive at 51° N. or 25° W. at the time and date named in the Vesca telegram and this should be specially impressed on the Masters who might otherwise concentrate on arrival at the arc on time neglecting the overriding importance of 51° N. or 25° W. If necessary to reduce speed of advance in order to avoid crossing 51° N. or 25° W. ahead of time this should be done by heavy zig-zagging rather than reducing speed keeping reasonably close to route ordered.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2232/27, to C-in-C. W.A. & S.A.I. Stn.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.(contd).

Coastal Convoys.

O.B. 280.	Your 2100/26. Take no action until instructe by N.O.I.C. Liverpool. (C. in C. W.A. 0017/27 to CRISPIN).
F.N. 93.	Southend 27/1 Departure for Hull H.M.D. BEN and LUCY with Convoy F.N. 93 No R/T or W/T. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 0941/27).
F.S. 96.	Sailed 0200. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0205/27 to Admty etc).
	48 ships. (F.O.I.C. 1001/27 to Admty etc).
E.N. 63.	(A) 0400/28. (B) H.M.T.'s SOUTHERN PRIDE (S.O.) PENTLAND FIRTH. Additional escort JASON. (C) 26 ships. (E) Code words E.N. 63 USAGE ENL Portion MONITOR ENO Portion MIXTURE. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1019/27).
W.N. 76.	0945/27. H.M. Trawlers STELLA CAPELLA (S.O.) FANDANGO escorting 3 ships including B.D.V. BARRINGTON for Aultea. (N.C.S.O. Greenock 1101/27).
W.N. 74.	Arrived 1045/27. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1102/27).
F.N. 96.	E.T.A. 62 D. Buoy 1930. (WOOLSTON 1105/27 to C. in C. Rosyth etc).
F.N. 93. F.S. 96.	Movements to noon/28. WIDGEON on passage to R/V with FS96 Outer Dowsing at 1800/27. QUORN leaves FN 93 at 1100/28 returning to Harwich. F.N. 93 due Sheringham 0600/28 F.S. 96 due Aldeburgh 0800/28. (C. in C. Nore 1200/27).

/O.B. 280.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

C.B. 280. B.H.X. 104.	PHILANTE and HARVESTER are to sail as additional escort to C.B. 280. My 1129/24 HARVESTER will not be required to meet B.H.X. 104. (C. in C. W.A. 1243/27 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool)
K.C.	(Norwegian ships to Clyde) (C. in C. W.A. 1325/27 - see Ocean Convoys).
W.N. 75.	058° 00'N. route N. speed made good 6.6 knots. (BERKSHIRE 1415/27 to A.C.O.S).
F.N. 93.	0930/27 46 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1422/27 to N.C.S.O Thames).
	QUORN is to part company with F.N. 93. so as to arrive Outer Dowsing at arrival 28/1 proceeding thence to Humber whence she is to act as escort for B.S. 50 under orders TEVIOT BANK. (C. in C. Nore 1440/27 to N.O.I.C. Harwich.).
F.N. 91.	Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C; Tyne 1422/27 to N.C.S.O. Thames).
F.N. 91. and 92.	Humber ships arrived . (N.C.S.O. Humber 1446/27 to N.C.S.O. Thames).
	Estimated positions at 2000/27:-
E.N. 62.	058° 44'N. 004° 55'W.
W.N. 75.	058° 2[illegible]'N. 005° 45'W.
H.X. 103.	061° 00'N. 017° 30'W.
O.B. 277.	061° 14'N. 015° 38'W. (A.C.O.S. 1542/27).

/E.N. 66.....

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

C.B. 279.
C.B. 280.
CORSAIR:

F.O.1/c Belfast's 1045/25 CORSAIR unable to sail in Convoy C.B. 279 due to weather. Intend sailing her in C.B. 280.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1642/27).

F.N. 93.

13 Ships. One H.M.T. and 14 Trawlers from Humber joining at 62 D. buoy.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1712/27 to Admty etc).

Harwich 27/1 departure QUORN at 1449 for Humber with F.N. Convoy.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1723/27 to Admty etc).

F.S. 95.

Arrived. Non arrivals BESTUM (Nor) OXFORD, SKUM, STELLING also DAGNEY and MARX reported shelt̄ering in Humber, IPSWICH TRADER reported arriving astern of F.S. 96.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1822/27).

W.N. 74.
F.N. 91.
F.S. 97.

Rosyth 27/1. Arrivals, HASTINGS, LADY ROSEMARY and SARABANDE with W.N. 74.
LYLE FISHER and STRAIT FISHER from Scapa.
LONDONDERRY and WOLFHOUND with F.N. 91 includes MALVERNIAN on passage Sheerness - Clyde. Departures. VALOROUS and VIMIERA with F.S. 97.
(C. in C, Rosyth, 2305/27).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X. 102.

Greenock Code Office pass to N.O.I.C. Oban H.X. 102 Section Escort, Oban CAMPANULA, Clyde PERIWINKLE, Liverpool ABERDEEN and remainder.
(ABERDEEN. 0201/27 to C. in C. W.A).

O.G.O. 51.

Sailed O.G.O. 51. 0330/27/1. Escort TULIP.
6 ships.
2 Ships carried Kites.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 0655/27).

/H.X. 103.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

H.X. 103. K.C.	WHITEHALL is to detach two destroyers from H.X. 103 as fuel necessitates or off Butt of Lewis to fuel at Scapa. A.C.C. S. is requested to sail these destroyers to escort to Clyde ships named in Admiralty's 1136/25. Name of Convoy K.C., Code word SOLLO. Anticipate destroyers will arrive Scapa A.M./30. (C. in C. W.A. 1325/27 to A.C.C.S. WHITEHALL).
	My 1325/27 now anticipate destroyers will arrive A.M/1. (C. in C. W.A. 1851/27 to A.C.C.S).
O.G. 51.	Your 0034/26. Arrived and sailed ALSEY to rejoin O.G. 51. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1425/27 to C. in C. W.A).
H.X. 102.	WILD SWAN with S.S. INDUNA CAIRNESK and Norwegian SOLSTAD arrived 1000/27. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1445/27, to Admty).
MANISTEE. S.L. 63.	MANISTEE to leave areas R.2 -82 (route) to R.V. with SL. 63 (position) for inward escort to Clyde. SL 63 route. (F.O.C.N.P. 1700/27 to Western Patrol).
H.X. 103.	ROYAL SOVEREIGN reports H.X. 103 36 hours late. Proceed to meet accordingly having regard to limits of endurance. (C. in C. W.A. 1751/27 to WHITEHALL VISCOUNT WINCHELSEA VANQUISHER GENTIAN VERBENA).
S.C.18.	On time at R. V. with 26 ships, all now arrived. Heavy weather for two days. (D.T.D. 1819/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.1.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

Unknown Ship	Unknown ship ashore and on fire at (? South) Middle Haisborough. Ship appears to be almost burnt out. (WESTMINSTER 0250/17to C. in C., Nore)
MAC GREGOR LAIRD	Sailed RESTIVE and ASSURANCE through position 56° 00' N., 08° 00' W., and 56° 00' N., 16° oo' W., to assist MAC GREGOR LAIRD disabled in position 51° 13' N., 25° 01' W. Estimated speed of advance 10 knots. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 0350/27)
SS SANDHILLS	Coaster SANDHILLS 25 miles 282° from Bar Light vessel making water tug urgently required. (Seaforth Radio, 0548/27)
BREDA	My 1831/23. Estimated time for repairs to BREDA 3 weeks from 27/1. (F.O.S. 1039/27)
SILVA	SILVA H.M. Danlaying water, (?trawler) Fouled wreck SPIRALITY Saturday High water tugs pulled SILVA off wreck which has suffered very little damage. SILVA considerable bottom damage forward. Salvage operations Sunday reduced leaks and fire pumps kept water under control high water noon today Monday beaching SILVA on Harwich hard to locate damage and effect temporary repairs. (Salvage Officer, Harwich, 1115/27)
SS DENEB	M/V DENEB (Dutch) after collision with unknown vessel at 0700 has been beached off No. 3 buoy inside Mouth of River Tees (N.O.I.C. Middlesborough 1125/27)
SALADIN SKATE	Returning to base owing to defects in forced lubricating system causing loss of oil. SKATE returned defect in starboard engine. (SALADIN, 1230/27)
ANASTASSIOS PATERAS	De ANASTASSIOS PATERAS steering damage very bad weather in position between Skerries and Isle of Man. Bearing from G.L.V ≠ 300 degrees from GFK 187 degrees from GLD ≠ 002 degrees 1233/27. We have not immediate assistances we endeavourto improve master. (Seaforth Radio 1233/27, Portishead Radio 1303/27) ≠ Seaforth Radio ≠ Land's End Radio.

/M.T.B. 42. .....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

27.1.1941.
Monday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

M.T.B. 42 M.T.B. 43	27/1. Arrival M.T.B. 71 at 1446, and M.T.B. 42 at 1728 with engine defects. M.T.B. 43 put into Newhaven with steering defects. (V.A.Dover, 1729/29)
CALDWELL	Further defects to CALDWELL dynamos make it impossible for her to sail. (Capt. D Liverpool, 1747/27)
Unknown Ship	S.O.S.SANDHILLS bearing 206° 12- 1/2 miles from Chicken Rock damaged requires tug, please reply as we are standing. (Portishead Radio, 1932/27)
PEGASUS	My position 2000/27 055° 32' N., 019° 02' W., course 080° speed owing to weather conditions 1 knot. Fuel will last until a.m./3/2 Request tug be sent to stand by ship. Have no suitable towing hawsers on board. (PEGASUS 2035/27)
SALADIN	Expect to arrive Lough Foyle 1900/28 Search abandoned (bad?) leak in ship's side above waterline. (SALADIN 2230/27)
VERSATILE	Steering Engine broken down. An anchoring 190° 54 E Buoy 4 cables. (VERSATILE 2302/27 to VERSATILE 2302/27 to VANITY)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Lisbon Intelligence.

On 27/1 at 1500 there passed Peniche going north a French four funnel Warship.
On 26/1 a destroyer escorted a French ship up the coast of Portugal as far as Cape Pulha. (Source a).
(N.A. Lisbon, 1019/27, to Admty.).

PONCELET
POITIERS

Your 2127/28. It is hoped that the French will very shortly agree to exchange the crew of Submarine PONCELET for British service and merchant seamen personnel held in French West Africa. The French are being asked to send ship to Freetown to effect exchange there. POITIERS crew will be included in the exchange.
(Head of M. 2230/27 to C.in C. S.A. (M.01904/40).

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN
VELOX
VIDETTE

Re escort, DUNEDIN and Convoy. (F.O.C.N.A. 1229/27 to C.in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume.

Your 1229/27. Remarks. (C.in C. S.A., 1731N/27 to F.O.C.N.A.) See Operations Volume. Reply. (F.O.C.N.A. 2350/27 to C.in C. S.A.) See Operations Volume.

Germans in France.

Unconfirmed report from French Source via American official source that three armoured divisions numbers 42 2 and 28 are stationed South of Bordeaux.
Confirmation will be sought. They are certainly not South of Bayonne.
(N.A. Madrid, 1151/27 to D.N.O.).

Information, OTUS.

My 1746/17 (B). American ship EXETER left Lisbon 25/1 for Bermuda. For information. (c) 2 Battle Cruisers and one Hipper Class Cruiser are at large. Possibly Italian submarine (?bearing) 290° by D/F from Gibraltar at 1049/27. (Capt. (S) 8, 1234/27, to OTUS).

/ ROCHESTER
JONQUIL
GERANIUM .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

ROCHESTER JONQUIL GERANIUM	Gibraltar departure 1800/27 ROCHESTER escorting H.G.52. Additional escort JONQUIL GERANIUM in accordance with F.O.C.N.A.'s 1246/26. (S.O.I., Gib., 1532/27, to Admty.).
S/M's positions 0300/18.	OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1820/27).
Air Report	Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A/S patrols. 1 surface recco West. 1 Convoy escort to West. Area covered 4° W. to 8° 30' W. (200 Group, 1715/27).
FURIOUS NEPTUNE	Admty. 2350/24 (Sailing of FURIOUS and NEPTUNE). FURIOUS represented urgent need of harbour time for boiler cleaning and making good minor defects. Intend therefore to sail FURIOUS and NEPTUNE after dark 29/1 without A/S escort making good 22 knots until reaching meridian 016° west. This has advantage of reducing time on passage in view of Admiralty's 1831/25 (German main units). (F.O.C.N.A. 1834/27 to Admty.)
H.G.52.	Gibraltar departures 1745/27 NEPTUNE SHEFFIELD to cover H.G.52 returning 1200/28 and 1200/30 respectively. (S.O.I. Gibraltar, 1916/27, to Admty.)
RESOLUTION.	Orders for RESOLUTION and escort. (D.O.D.(F) to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. W.A., 1919/27) See Operations Volume.
FOXHOUND NORTHERN PRINCE	Gibraltar 1915/27 departure FOXHOUND escorting NORTHERN PRINCE in accordance with F.O.C.N.A. 1600/24. (S.O.(I) Gib., 1920/27).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MORENA
MARY SLESSOR

S.S. MORENA sailed Glasgow 29/1 with 12 Blenheim Aircraft for Takoradi.
S.S. MARY SLESSOR sailed London 23/1 with 2 Blenheims for Takoradi.
(D. of S.T. 1115/27 to S.T.O.i/c Takoradi).

Transport of S. African troops.

Remarks on D. of S.T.'s 2246/18. (S.N.O. Simonstown 1121/27 to Admty.)
(See Operations Vol.).

MOUZINHO, censorship of mails.

Portuguese MOUZINHO arrived Freetown 27/1 with 2172 bags of mail for ANGOLA.
Censorship is beyond capabilities of local censorship staff without very great delay.
S.O.I. Capetown has reported that Portuguese mail can be censored in the Union and forwarded by train. Intend therefore to forward this mail to Capetown in ship of W.S.S.B for Censorship there.
(C.in C. S.A., 1147/27 to Admty. etc.).

Transport of S. African troops.

Your 1422/25 and D. of S.T. (2747/18).
NIEUW HOLLAND cannot be spared and I cannot suggest any other ship unless D. of S.T. will let me have ORBITA after disembarking troops at Mombasa (727) troops could possibly be put in camp at Durban to await onward passage to destinations.
(S.N.O. Simonstown, 1240B/27, to C.in C.E.I.)

Shipping Intelligence for U.S.A.

American Consul Capetown has received instructions from Department of State Washington to telegraph in code arrivals and departures with port of destination and last port of call of all foreign shipping over 2,000 tons except British. Consul does not know object.
American Minister would be very grateful if we can provide information but quite understands that this cannot be done without authority from Admty. He cannot get it from any other source.
Request instructions observing that this probably affects most large ports.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1240B/27 to Admty.)

/ CHITRAL
TAMERLANE .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

URLA. British 5198 tons. (Straggler from H.X. 102 Boston for Manchester with steel and lumber) Following received at 'Y' station at 2033 on 500 kcs. X. 329 SOS URLA torpedoed sinking 54°N. 1920 W. receiver out of action. (Flowerdown W/T, 2042/28).

Detach one ship to assistance of URLA torpedoed in position 054° 00'N. 019° 20'W (? N) at 2030. Ship detailed report name. (C. in C. W.A. 2053/28 to MALLOW).

Submarines Reported.

1236. 57° - 59°N., 18° 23° W. say 220'W. of Rockall, indefinite position. (D.S. 512).

2133. About 51.30 N. 14° W. say 166'W. of Fastnet, indefinite position. (D.S. 512.

1825. 63.04 N., 13.48 W. (See S/M's Attacked).

Estimated U/B dispositions. Positions cannot be reliably estimated.

German.
1 may be eastbound from 60° N. 25° W. present position unknown.
1 within 100 miles radius of 55°N. 21° W.
1 within 100 miles radius of 53°N. 21° W.
1 may be about 53°N. 15°W. southbound.
1 about 200 miles to westward of Rockall.
1 within 100 miles radius of 40° N. 12° W. homeward bound.
1 withing100 miles radius of 20°N. 22° W. southbound.

Italian.
1 within 100 miles radius of 40° N. 13° E. homeward bound.
1 near Canaries.
1 arriving Gironde.
1 about 150 miles N.W. of Cape Ortegal outward bound.
2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1423/28).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CHITRAL
TAMERLANE

Proceed to R/V with and then escort TAMERLANE who passes four miles N.E. of Calera Point, Trinidad, at 1200 G.M.T./27 and then (route) to Takoradi.
Report present position and time and position you expect to R/V. Also (?011) remaining in order that relief may be arranged neighbourhood of Freetown, if required.
(C.in C. S.A., 1331N/27, to CHITRAL).

Cancel my 1331 N/27. (C.in C. S.A. 2003N/27, to CHITRAL).

Your 1331 N/27. CHITRAL is in Denmark Strait. (D.O.D.(F) 2115/27 to C.in C. S.A.)

My 2115/27. C.in C. S.A. 1331N/27 does not concern you. (D.D.O.D.(F) 2254/27, to CHITRAL).

A.T. 2115/27 to C.in C. S.A. only.
Regret that confusion as to CHITRAL's location should have arisen.
It appears to be due to F.O.I.C. Greenock's 1401/14 as you were not in address of F.O.C.N.P. 1454/12.
Admty. 1012/11 para. 1 (b), date is still under consideration.
(D.O.D.(F) 2307/27 to C.in C. S.A.).

S.L.S. and N.C. Convoys, Speed.

Your 2047/25.
Speed of advance of S.L.S. Convoys is calculated as 6.8 knots, while that of N.C. Convoys between R.V. with S.L.S. Convoys and R.V. with local escort works out at 5.5 knots.
(N.C.D.O., Freetown, 1546/27 to Admty.)

CAPETOWN CASTLE.

Arriving Durban in W.S.5.B. No cargo of maize. (D.S.T. 1744/27 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

MURJECK.

Your 1648/23. Owners of MURJECK state that Norwegian members of crew landed at Santos. Vessel now proceeding on voyage direct Gothenburg. (N.A. Stockholm 1648/27, to Admty.).

/ Convoy W.S.5 B. ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Convoy W.S.5 B. By 2210/20. Suggest Tanker BRITISH TRUST due Durban 6/2 with cargo of furnace oil be used assist bunkering.
(D.S.T. 1934/27 to C.in C's S.A., E.I.).

BRITISH UNION (sunk by raider 19/1). ARAWA's 0315/19 and 0458/19. BRITISH UNION was sunk at 2300 GMT 19/1 in 26° 34' North 30° 56' West by Armed Merchant Cruiser. Ship damaged by gunfire sunk by Torpedo. Nine survivors in boat found by ARAWA of whom one subsequently died. Remaining 37 including Master probably in other two boats and may have been picked up by Raider. Raider only seen by own searchlights but appears to be modified KULMERLAND or RODA type, about 10,000 tons (description). 2 Naval Ratings reported to be on board. These are not among survivors at Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1950/27, 1955/27, to Admty.).

W.S.5 B.
? French Recon. One Glen Martin aircraft presumed French carried out reconnaissance over Freetown at 0030/25 as convoy W.S.5 B. was entering harbour. (C.in C. S.A. 2027/27, to Admty.).

BRIDGEWATER
ATLAS My 2357/24. Tug ATLAS arrived Takoradi p.m./27. Am instructing tug remain Takoradi until you make contact with Governor. You should commence tow and report daily course and speed made good as CHELMER will be sent to rendezvous with you.
(C.in C. S.A. 2033/27 to BRIDGEWATER).

SCHARNHORST
GNEISENAU SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU reported in Great Belt on a Northerly course A.M./25 have not been located since. (A.2).
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2321/27 to C.in C's S.A., A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Salonika. Report of German intention to occupy (A.A., Ankara to Air Ministry 0729/27) See Med. Vol.

BONAVENTURE. Experience in recent actions has shown that 5.25 turret cannot be trained whilst ship is heeling under full helm at high speed. (BONAVENTURE 1050/27.).

M.L.'s for Harbour Defence. Harbour defence M.L.'s. Three shipped in S.S. CLAN MACTAVISH sailed 17/1, for Alexandria, two following in S.S. CITY OF ATHENS (Characteristics:)
Crews who have had short training in similar craft following by separate passage. Intend sending eleven more of these craft as soon as shipping space can be found. Anticipate additional sixteen will be available for Mediterranean later. (D. of L.D. 1050/27 to C.in C. Med.).

Air Report. 1. Egypt. Day 26/1. 3 Blenheims dropped 3,000 lbs. bombs on Barce landing ground hitting buildings near hangars and probably damaging 2 aircraft.
9 Blenheims bombed dispersed aircraft on Maraus landing ground.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1146/27).

BONAVENTURE. Re ammunition. Proposals. (C.in C. Med., 1350/27) See Mediterranean Volume.

Malta Air Report.
M.V. sunk.
M.V. hit. Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 27/1. All times G.M.T. 0600 to 1827 Sunderland anti convoy patrol eastern Tunisian Coast with striking force standing by. 0700 reported small M/Vs and at 1025 reported two M/Vs and 1 escort vessel. 7 Swordfish and two Fulmars detailed to attack. Sunderland saw attack and state 1 M/V 5,000 tons sunk. 1 M/V 8,000 tons hit but escort vessel escaped damage. All aircraft returned safely. No enemy aircraft except 1 recce aircraft over Malta today. (H.Q. Med., 1710/27.).

/Italian ship CARALIS, ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Italian motor ship CARALIS, 3510 tons, made an S.O.S. at 1420/27 in 34. 30 N., 11.50 E., about 30 miles S.E. from Kerkenah Island. Later she reported she was nearing Tripoli. (D.S. 511, 28/1).

Mine — Floating mine was reported on 27/1 approx. 44 miles N.E. of Strompoli. (D.S. 511).

Ships off coast of Tunis — Commencement of patrol UNIQUE sighted 4 ships all passed C about noon; after detection only sighted 2 destroyers 0320/24. Consider route D C thence Eastbound to Ras Jioggig thence direct Kerkenar. (S.O.(S) Malta, 1815/27 to UPHOLDER).

Re aircraft strength. — V.A.A. Med. 1130/17. What is position now as regards Glen Martins. (C.in C. Med. 1925/27 to V.A. Malta, V.A. Med.).

German Aircraft, Sicily. — Probable German aircraft in Sicily now being reinforced by one long range bomber group (40 aircraft) practised in minelaying. This together with replacement of losses already sustained would give total strength Mediterranean: Long range bombers 160
Bomber Reconnaissance 20
Dive bombers 150
Twin engined fighters 40
Transport 40 - 50
Majority probably in Sicily. Of rest about 40 long range bombers are at Benghasi and/or Rhodes and 40 Dive bombers in Benghasi area. (D.N.I. 1947/27 to C.in C. Med. etc.).

Following from N.A. Washington.
From Navy Department. From Rome undated.
German Air H.Q. Catania located Miramare Hotel Taormina.
German aviators boast they will take Malta in 2 weeks.
German trucks being transported from Trieste to San Giovanni Di Medua through Yugoslav Territorial Waters. Conditions internally getting worse, food scarce and discontent increasing. (D.N.I. 2323/27 to C.in C. Med., V.A. Malta.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Exercise of Contraband Control in Persian Gulf.	In view of Adty. 1148/23 cancel para. one of my 0500/23. (C.in C. E.I. 1110Z/27).
Repatriation of French crews.	My 1102/15. How do matters stand? There have been 4 cases of Beri-Beri among native crew of ESPERANCE. (C.in C. E.I. 1108Z/27).
LEANDER, PEARLEAF, COLOMBO	My 0740/28 (1) on completing with fuel on 31/1 LEANDER is to proceed to Colombo so as to arrive 2200/30. LEANDER is to order oiler PEARLEAF to proceed at best speed to Colombo after fuelling LEANDER. On completing with fuel COLOMBO is to proceed to Colombo adjusting speed so as to pass through the Kardiva channel in daylight. (C.in C. E.I., 1120Z/27 to Force V.).
KANIMBLA.	My 1048/28. On arrival position 010° S. 047° E. cruise in vicinity until 0900Z/29 visit Assumption Island if practicable and then proceed at 15 knots to position (B) 022 30' S. 040° and patrol between positions (B) and (a) 030° S. 035°. (C.in C. E.I. to KANIMBLA, 1152Z/27).
Operation "Breach". Convoy U.3.9.	My 1844/23 confirmed. Date. (C.in C. E.I., 1226Z/27 to C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume. Re watering (F.O.C.R.I.N. 1232Z/27) See Operations Volume.
B.N. Convoys.	Your 1226Z/21 addressed S.N.O. Red Sea. Confirm cycle of BN convoys from Aden. Your 1316Z/16 para. (2) (a) States BN (8 knot) convoy to leave every four days. (D.T.D., 1506/27 to C.in C. E.I.).

/ Convoy U.3.10. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.).

Convoy U.S.10. Reply to A.C.N.B. 1137/16 re numbers and shipping. (C.in C. E.I., 1326/27 to A.C.N.B.). See Operations Volume.

Mogadishu, Kismayu. Admty. 1946/25. Plans for certain operations. (C.in C. E.I., 1844Z/27 to Admty.). See Operations Volume.

Search for raider by SYDNEY. My 1212/24 and my 1714/24.
(i) SYDNEY obtained a D/F bearing at 1440Z/24.
(ii) Mauritius took a bearing at 1656/24 of a station tuning on German Series B 010 degs. first class.
(iii) Combinations of bearings gave SYDNEY probable position of raider 006° 50' S. 060° 10' E. at about 1700Z/24.
(iv) SYDNEY searched likely dawn position and to southward on 25/1 and in accordance with my 0710/26 para. 4 on 26/1. Aircraft were used both days. Nothing confirmed.
(v) My 1212/25. It is not yet known if this (?subsequently) was unconfirmed.
(vi) Seychelles Radio Trincomalee which has call sign G C X B acknowledges receipt of a Merchant Navy Code message at 0655Z/25 and 1330Z/25th. No success. The transmission(s) were designed not to frighten the raider.
(vii) Report from LEANDER and CANBERRA not yet available.
(viii) A station tuning on 13320 Kc/s at 1244Z/26 bore 067° from Mauritius.
(ix) Consider raider may have withdrawn to south eastwards to reappear in Sharks Bay area. (C.in C. E.I. 1850/27, 1852Z/27).

Troop Movement. Your 1420/26. No other ships are available at present. DOMINION MONARCH not under my control. (C.O.C.R.I.N., 1832Z/27, to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Indo-China Trade. My 00467/18. Decoux telegraphed entire approval of agreement on 23/1. (C.in C. China 02257/27 to Admty.).

SAGAMI MARU. Your 1049/21. Bolivian Government states it has not ordered any ammunition by SAGAMI MARU is believed to be bringing cloth for army uniforms. Bolivia has no six inch guns and only twenty millimetre A.A. guns. (C.O.S. Singapore 15293/27 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

German Reports, Japan. A.S. Report five German raiders accompanied by unprotected submarines are to be operative in north Pacific against British Norwegian and Dutch trade. German naval bureau established at Kobe. Source was advised by informant not to take Dutch ship to Manila this week.
German N.A. endeavouring to purchase sulphuric acid for delivery to Illies and Co. Kobe.
This sort of information may be deliberately put about with object of destroying confidence in allied shipping.
(N.A. Tokyo 1546/27 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).

America and West Indies.

BRASIL. Norwegian tanker, 8130 tons. Sailed from Belfast 24/12. Overdue at Port Arthur, Texas, since 16/1. (D.S. 810).

ASAKA. Special service ship ASAKA of Imperial Japanese Navy formerly merchant ship ASAKA MARU, 7289 tons, left Yokosuka on political mission to Europe 16/1 and is due Panama Canal 7/2 and Lisbon 20/2. (Description). (Hd. of M., 1349/27, to C.in C. A.W.I., F.O.C.N.A., F.O.C.N.P., C.in C. W.A.).

/ TAMERLANE
CARADOC ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

TAMERLANE
CARADOC. Admty. 1259/27 C.in C. S.A. 1331B/27.
Instruct TAMERLANE to proceed at 15 knots and escort her to limit of your endurance or until relieved by CHITRAL then return Trinidad.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1641/27, to CARADOC).

VAN KINSBERGEN
Operation
Bacon. Cancel my 1102/27 not to N.O.1/c Trinidad.
On completion of refit proceed Trinidad in readiness to carry out - operation - "Bacon". S.N.O. Curacoa pass to VAN KINSBERGEN.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1642/27, to VAN KINSBERGEN).

CONORIN. Bermuda arrived and sailed CONORIN proceeding through (a) 025° N. 060° W. (b) 015° N. 058° W. to arrive Trinidad a.m. 1/2.
(C.in C. A.W.I., 1753/27, to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 27.1.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ERNA OLDENDORFF. ERNA OLDENDORFF sailed from Vigo last night about midnight.
(Consul, Vigo, 0942/27, to Admty.).

My 0942 ERNA OLDENDORFF reported to have gone ashore this morning on Ons Island Pontevedra Bay, making water astern. (B.2.)
(Consul, Vigo, 1041/27).

My 1041 understand ERNA O is not ashore. She suffered bad leak at Ons Island and is reported to have taken shelter at Marin Pontevedra Bay.
(N.A. Vigo, 1535/27).

MUNSTERLAND Kobe 26/1 departure MUNSTERLAND.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 1607/27, to Admty. etc.).

ARKADIA. Arrivals. ARKADIA from Burgas departure Italian Tanker TORELLO Batoum in ballast.
(Varna 1836/27).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CORTELLAZZO. Kobe arrival 25/1 CORTELLAZZO.
(Capt. O.S. Singapore, 0749/27).

CONTE VERDE Trying to arrange for 6 months' fuel maintenance, at Shanghai. (D.S. 510).

TORCELLO Tanker left Varna for Batoum in ballast
(Varna 1836/27).

DIANA Arrival 27/1 Italian ship DIANA from Genoa.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SONTAY, escort.

Your 13582/26.
No escort available unless N.O.i/c Simonstown can arrange for armed trawler two preferably and air (?escort).
Consider this should be sufficient.
(C.in C. S.A. 1113N/27, to C.in C. E.I.).

JEAN L.D., cargo.

My 1203/24. Customs have examined ship and are satisfied that cargo conforms to manifest and nothing suspicious was found.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1143/27, to Admty.).

MENDOZA.

Reporting Officer Ascension reports arrival of MENDOZA this morning 27/1.
(S.O.I. Freetown, 1045N/27, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.1.1941.
Monday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

0347. W. of S. Ireland, possibly about 20° W., indefinite position of German U/B. (D.S. 510).

1049. At 1049 by D/F believed Italian U boat bore 290° from Gibraltar 1st class. (F.O.C.N.A. 1217/27 to North Atlantic Stn.).

Your 1217/27. Request call sign and frequency. (D.D.I.C. 1446/27 to F.O.C.N.A.).

My 1217, bearing from Lands End 1st Class was 220°. (F.O.C.N.A. 1558/27, to N. Atlantic Stn.).

1156. Following bearings received of an Italian U-Boat at 1154 G.M.T.:-
Scarborough 240/3
Lands End 220/1.
(D.D.I.C. 1311/27 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

1952. Following has been read:
S.S.S.S. Object resembling submarine seen near Reykjanes at 1952/27.
(Iceland W/T, T.O.R. 2111/27).

2156. 46° N. 10° W. Italian U/B, indefinite positions (D.S. 511).

Estimated U/B dispositions. Information still scanty.
German.
1 near 60° N. 27° W. on 24th may have moved N.E. or E.
1 about 55° N. 21° W. at 1945/26.
1 about 52° N. 20° W. at 0347/27.
1 within 60 miles radius of 56° N. 14° W.
1 to N.W. or N. or N.E. of Rockall.
1 within 100 miles radius of 37° N. 13° W. homeward bound.
1 within 100 miles radius of 23° N. 23° W. southbound.
Italian.
1 may pass Gibraltar tonight Eastbound.
1 within 300 miles W. of Palma Canaries.
1 within 100 miles radius of 39°N. 17°W.
1 about 46° 30' 8° W. bound for Gironde.
2 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1328/27.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping in N.W.Approaches

Several attacks were made on shipping in the N.W.Approaches this morning. Convoy O.G. 51 was bombed and SS PANDION and BARON RENFREW were hit. Convoy S.C. 19 was also attacked and SS GRELROSA was hit and abandoned. A ship named SS RASO was also reported being bombed in S.C. 19; there is no ship of this name in Lloyds List, and it is possibly a mistake for SS GRELROSA.

Some German aircraft show markings consisting of a Swastika on a circular white background. This may be mistaken for British markings.

Mining

The Admiralty today informed C. in C., Home Fleet that it is a matter of the first importance to continue with laying mines in the Iceland-Faroes Barrier.

Mines were detonated in the Tay this forenoon and Dundee was closed at 1359.

M.V. TAFELBERG (13640 tons) was mined in the Bristol Channel and was beached in Porth Kerry Bay. Avonmouth, Barry, Cardiff, Newport and Swansea were closed this evening.

Mines are suspected off Aberdeen, but searching has not up to now confirmed this.

Milford Haven was closed tonight.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Two French fighters attacked one of our aircraft 5 miles from Rabat today.

Mediterranean

Air Operations

Last night Wellingtons attacked Capo di Chino and Catanda aerodromes and other targets at Naples.

Catania and Comiso aerodromes were also bombed; the raiders operating at night against Malta are believed to be based at the latter aerodrome.

MOST SECRET.

23. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CHITRAL.

Adty. 1012/11 paragraph 6 (A) F.O.C.N.P. 1142/18, and F.O.I.C. Glasgow 2264/23. As CHITRAL is in all respects suitable for North Atlantic as now fitted suggest CIRCASSIA or CILICIA be allocated to South Atlantic Station in her place. These ships have large endurance and are suitable for service in hot climate without alteration. (F.O.C.N.P. 1030/28 to Adty.)

W/T. Areas. on Home Station.

As from 0001/3/2, the following amended Areas A and B will be introduced on Home Station for W/T purposes. (A.C.N.S.H. 1157/28.) (A.C.N.Home 70 A.S.) See Summaries Folder.

W.A. Command. Proposed division.

into two.

A423 28/1. Adty 0305/26 and 0307/26. 1. No difficulties foreseen in division of present Western Approaches Command into 2 Commands so far as they affect air co-operation. 2. Coastal Command Groups 19 (new) 15, 18 boundaries will be as follows.

4. Presumed that C. in C. W.A. will still route and control all outward and homeward bound ocean convoys and be responsible for all measures to combat any attacks on convoys by U-Boats or hostile aircraft. (Air Ministry 1635/28 to Adty.)

N.W. Approaches 4 Sloops to join C. in C. W.A.

It is a matter of urgency to increase the A/A fire of convoy escorts in N.W. Approaches. 2. C. in C. Rosyth is requested to sail four sloops to join C. in C. W.A. as soon as relieved in the Rosyth Escort Force by four HUNTS. 3. C. in C. Nore is requested to lend four HUNTS now to C. in C. Rosyth until relieved by four new construction HUNTS. (A.C.N.S.H. 1858/28.)

/Admiralty.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy Contd.

Admiralty 1858/28. Destroyers detailed COTSWOLD, SOUTHDOWN, HOLDERNESS, PYTCHLEY. COTSWOLD is already lent temporarily to C. in C. Rosyth. HOLDERNESS, PYTCHLEY, and SOUTHDOWN will be sailed for Rosyth with F.N.95 tomorrow. COTSWOLD has already gone. (C. in C. Nore 2238/28 to Adty.

HOLDERNESS and PYTCHLEY are to sail for Rosyth with F.N.95 tomorrow Wednesday. To leave Sheerness at 0930 and R/V, with Commodore of convoy in S.S. POZNAN off Nore L.V. WOOLSTON joining about 1200. On arrival at Rosyth HOLDERNESS and PYTCHLEY are to come under orders of C. in C. Rosyth. (C. in C. Nore 2242/28 to D.Sl.)

M/V's in Convoy and Enemy A/C.

Many reports from escorts and Commodores have stated that Merchant ships in convoy have failed to open fire on enemy aircraft. The difficulties of keeping their guns manned continuously are appreciated but I am convinced tha• even though the matter is stressed by N.C.S.O's and Commodores at Convoy Conferences and the serious nature of the air menace is not fully grasped by those concerned. I strongly recommend therefore that selected R.N.R. Officers of experience should be appointed to the staffs of N.C.S.O's at each assembly port whose sole duty would be to visit each ship before sailing to explain to Masters Officers of experience should be appointed to the staffs of N.C.S.O's at each assembly port whose sole duty would be to visit each ship before sailing to explain to Masters Officers and gun crews in their own language the vital importance of opening fire on enemy aircraft and to emphasise to Masters the importance of Flying Kites especially in view of the latter being the most effective deterrent to the low attacks practiced by the enemy. (C. in C. W.A. 1949/28 to Adty.)

MOST SECRET.

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Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 2330/27. (D.C.0010/28.) At 1130/28. (D.C.1156/28.) At 2330/28. (D.C.2359/28.)

Stornoway
Manning of
4-inch Battery.

A.C.N.S.H. 1629/28. to A.C.O.S.

Operations.

WIRTA.
WISA.

Your 1431/27. S.O.N.T. reports that Finnish ship WIRTA was not intercepted by Northern Patrol Trawler. Finnish ship WISA was intercepted in position 62° 44' N. 015° 48' W., and at 1910/24, NORTHERN GIFT reported that WISA was proceeding to Kirkwall under armed guard. WISA has not yet arrived at Kirkwall. (F.O.C.N.P. 0115/28 to Adty.)

Search for
SCHARNHORST
and GNEISENAU.

NAIAD chasing two unknown ships approx. course 070° 062° 53'N. 016° 40' W. (C. in C. H.F. 0800/28.)

My position course and speed 63°40'N.16° 40'W. 055°. If nothing is sighted (portion missed) 00 (portion missed) 050° 7 miles and held for some time now faded. (? C.S.15 0830/28. to (?) AURORA.)

My 0800/28. NAIAD lost touch at 0715 when one ship was making smoke. Ships believed to have separated. REPULSE and 4 Destroyers proceeding support NAIAD, Cruiser searching. (? C. in C. H.F. 0840/28.)

My position course and speed are 063° 10'N. 015° 53'W. 040 degs. 28 knots. Corrupt group. Corrupt group. Intend to fly off aircraft for reconnaissance. (REPULSE 0945/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

Proceed to search passage between S.S.X. 250 and Iceland. (C. in C. H.F. 1012/28 to AURORA.)

Your 0840/23. Coastal Command have ordered following Air Patrols. (C. in C. Rosyth 1024/28. to C. in C. H.F.)

/C.S.18 in .....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations Contd.

C.S.18 in EDINBURGH take RODNEY, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, PIORUN, BEAGLE, BRILLIANT, and KEPPEL under his orders and return to Scapa routed approximately through positions (a) 061° N. 013° W. (b) 059° N. 007° W. proceeding at best speed that weather permits. 2. Intend to operate remaining ships until 30/1 in area centre of which is position 062° N. (? 021°) 30' West close Reykjavik as necessary to fuel destroyers. 3. Failing other developments C.S.18 is to sail the same force to operate in above area leaving Scapa AM/30. Destroyers need not necessarily be same. C.S. 18 acknowledge. (C. in C. H.F. 1047/27 to C.S.18.)

My position course and speed are 063° 08' N. 014° 55' W. R.17, 055°, 30 knots. ARETHUSA bears 125° 12 miles. (2 C.S. 1055/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

My position course and speed 064° 53' N. 013°20' W, X 14,005°, 30 knots. Extreme visibility no ship in sight. (AURORA 1401/28 to C. in C. H.F.)

My position course and speed are 063° 54' N. 013° 39' W. X 10,055° 16 knots. Rejoin me with all convenient despatch now. (C. in C. H.F. 1430/28. to C. S. 15, C.S.2., etc.)

Repeating C.O.C. Iceland Force's (D.D.I.C. 1432/28 to C. in C. H.F.) 1945/27.

Am discontinuing search. Intend returning to Scapa Flow with my force arriving A.M. 30. if no further information is received. (C. in C. H.F. 1445/28. to Adty.)

/C Enemy.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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HOME COMMANDS

Operations-Contd

6 Enemy M/V's

(1) Six merchant ships of 500 to 3,000 tons sighted off Ushant proceeding North at 1248. Estimated speed 8 knots. Expect these craft will proceed eastward along French Coast.

(2) Proceed as requisite to intercept Return to Plymouth by 1000/29. (C. in C., W.A., 1907/28 to KASHMIR, KIPLING)

KASHMIR, KIPLING sailed from Plymouth 1924/28. (C. in C., W.A., 0151/29 to Admty)

Movements

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE

Your 1828/24. Owing to conjestion in Clyde ship must be berthed at Tail of Bank. 2. As many of your demands will be met as possible during the time available. 3. Rating will be provided as requested. (A.C.N.S. H. 0001/28 to FURIOUS)

My 1231/28. Route for FURIOUS and NEPTUNE from R.V. K.
(2) Ships are to proceed at best speed from R,V. K.
(3) NEPTUNE is to be detached in position (b) and proceed to Chatham in accordance with Admty's 1829/18. (C. in C., W.A., 1239/28 to F.O.C.N.A.)

J. 3968

Sailed escorted by HESPERUS, HAVELOCK, HIGHLANDER to comply with my 1516/26 amended by my 2016/27. (F.O.Liverpool 1331/28 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Shall be at least 1 (one) and 1/2 hours late at 1630 rendezvous (c) (PRINCE OF WALES 1453/28 to CURACOA)

Expect A/S/M escort by Anson aircraft from about 0930/29 until noon, then by Hudson aircraft until dark. (C. in C., Rosyth 1928/28 to PRINCE OF WALES)

Unable to make contact owing to low visibility. My P.C. A.S. are 53 54 N., 04 58 W., 356° 15 knots. Intend to make contact at daylight. (JACKAL 1930/28 to PRINCE OF WALES)

/INGLEFIELD....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

INGLEFIELD, MAORI, NIZAM R/V outside Hoxa 0900 tomorrow with NIGERIA and proceed under his orders to pass through position 000° Cape Wrath 4 thence to R/V with J 3968 in position 260° Cape Wrath 15 at 1600/29. Provide escort to Rosyth.

2. J 3968 proceeding from (? North) Minch is escorted by CURACOA, HIGHLANDER, HAVELOCK HESPERUS, JACKAL.

3. On relief HAVELOCK HESPERUS have orders to proceed to Scapa and JACKAL to Clyde. HIGHLANDER and CURACOA will continue escort to May Island. CURACOA then return to Scapa. HIGHLANDER has orders to proceed to Tyne.

4. On completion of escort NIGERIA, INGLEFIELD, MAORI, NIZAM return to Scapa

(R.A.D. H.F. 2255/28)

BOREAS — Sailed Sheerness 1255/28. Speed 12 knots to Shipwash thence 20 knots, weather and visibility permitting. E.T.A., 0400/30 (C. in C., Nore, 1418/28 to A.C.O.S.)

Northern Patrol — Trawler Lines tonight. 6 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1521/28 and 2103/28)

T.L.C. 3
T.L.C. 4 — My 1046/28. N.O.I.C. Methil is to arrange sailing of T.L.C. 4 escorted by STOKE CITY for Inverness as soon as weather conditions and forecast allow. N.O.I.C. Methil is also to arrange direct with N.O.I.C. Dundee for T.L.C. 3 now at Montrose to rendezvous as necessary with STOKE CITY and T.L.C. 4 for onward passage to Inverness, both T.L.C's proceeding thence via Caledonian Canal to Inverary. (C. in C., Rosyth 1657/28)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

CACHALOT THUNDERBOLT	My 1722/27. Amend as follows. Movements. (F.O.S. 0634/28)
	Intend to sail CUTTY SARK at 1200/28 to R/V with CACHALOT in 315° Cape Wrath 8.5 miles at 0900/29 and escort her to the Clyde. (S.2. 0857/28)
	THUNDERBOLT to leave patrol after dark today. Escort, R/V light, and bombing restrictions to-morrow as in my 0949/23. (S. 2. 0944/28)
Bombing Restrictions Cancelled	OPS 133. 28/1. Cancel following Bombing Restrictions. (H.Q.C.C. 1203/28)
PORPOISE with H.X. 105	Proposed movements (F.O.S. 1226/28, C. in C., W.A., 1853/28) See Operations Volume.
Area 24 Bombing Restriction	Ops/134 28/1. Institute total SBR area 24 from 0400/29 to 1200/29. (H.Q.C.C. 1510/28)
OLYMPUS	Trawler CAMBRIDGESHIRE will be at R/V 180° Saint Catherines 5 miles at 0800/29. Total bombing restrictions arranged in prior sanctuary from 0730 to 1100. All time B.S.T. Following Movements may affect you. (S. 5. 1546/28 to OLYMPUS)
Clyde Bombing Restrictions	Ops 135 28/1. Extend total SBR Clyde Sanctuary for additional period 1800/29 to 0800/30. (H.Q.C.C. 1559/28)
Positions.	At 0800/29 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1722/28)
Holyhead S/M for Londonderry	C. in C., W.A. 1836/23. Proposal in para 2 approved. Request F.O. (S) will take action accordingly (A.C.N.S. T. 1747/28)

/MINERVE.....

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines-Contd.

MINERVE (Free French) — Intend to sail passing Bell Rock 1800/30 routed as follows. (S. 9. 1807/28 to F.O.S)

Western Channel Bombing Restrictions cancelled. — Cancel total SBR between 03° 30' W., and 05° W., North of 49° N., and in Plymouth sanctuary. (H.Q.C.C. 1827/28)

6 Enemy M/V's off Ushant — My 1512/28. 2 destroyers have left vicinity of Start Point South Eastward to intercept. (F.O.S. 2112/28 to OLYMPUS

British Air Activity

Patrols — Patrols described in my 2258/25 will be repeated to-day 28th. (C. in C., Rosyth 0006/28 to C.in C., H.F.)

Patrol U.N.S.T. cancelled for today. Patrol IP-OP will be flown P.M. (C. in C., 0945/28 to A.C.O.S.)

885. Your 0840/28.
Coastal Command have ordered A/C on FUGLE to patrol
62° 42' N., 9° 36' W., 65° N., 12° W.
64° 48' N., 12° 34' W., 62° 50' N., 9° W.

A/C on two cross over patrols to patrol
62° N., 12° 22' W., 63° 16' N., 11° 40' W
63° 16' N., 12° 22' W., 62° N., 11° 38' W &
63° 16' N., 12° 22' W., 64° 30' N., 11°38' W
64° 30' N., 12° 22' W., 63° 16' N., 11°40' W
(C. in C., Rosyth 1024/28 to C. in C., H.F)

Patrol S.T. 1 (one) at 0930 and patrol S.T. 2 at 1415 for tomorrow. Also additional Patrol in accordance with your 1520/25. (N.A.Station, Stornoway 1056/28 to A.C.O.S)

C. The following patrols are required for 29/1. R1 R2 SA2 SA3. (H.Q.C.C. 1920/28 to 18 Group)

/As only.....

MOST SECRET

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War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity

Patrols-Contd.

1. As only one Sunderland available tomorrow the area covered by the two cross-over patrols described in my 2258/25/1 will be flown one circuit only. Fugle will not be flown.

2. Result of patrols today:-
Fugle nothing to report, visibility poor.
Cross-over patrols nothing to report.
S.A. 1 A 100% Visibility 25 miles.
(C. in C., Rosyth 2300/28)

804 Squadron for Yeovilton.

My 1232/19. 804 Squadron should be transferred to Yeovilton as soon as convenient after 31/1. (D.N.A.D. 1328/28)

801 Squadron

A.O.C. 15 group has enquired whether 801 Squadron will be able to operate tomorrow Wednesday. I have replied yes with six aircraft. (St. Merryn 1658/28 to R.A.F.A.S.)

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.G. 51
PANDION
damaged
BARON RENFREW
bombed

(British, 1944 tons) Attacked by A/C in 55° 34' N., 10° 22' W. Mate and master seriously injured. Steering gear damaged. (Port Patrick Radio 0910/28)

Fighter assistance requested for convoy Clasp in 55° 50' N., 10° 18' W. One enemy aircraft. (LEITH 1008/28)

My 1008- BARON RENFREW hit (LEITH 1033/28)

two aircraft bombing in 55° 50' N., 10° 18' W., (LEITH 1114/28)

O.G. 51 attacked at 1000 in 055° 50' N., 010° 18' W., by Junker F.W. A/C . BARON RENFREW hit (?) in engine room. TOWARD and CANDYTUFT are standing by and will make further report. Am proceeding with convoy. (LEITH 1232/28)

/SS BARON RENFREW..

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

O.C. 51-Contd.	SS BARON RENFREW bombed. Captain reports hit in engine room number (?one) and four holds and unexploded bomb in bunker. Expected to remain afloat about six hours. Am standing by in position 055° 50' N., 010° (?15') West. 17 survivors on board. Captain and 14 survivors in SS TOWARD who is joining convoy. (CANDYTUFT 1330/28)
	Sailed Tug TENACITY escorted by SHEMARA to assist PANDION. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1353/28)
	SS BARON RENFREW shows no sign of sinking. Request tugs. Chief engineer reports steering gear is electric and there is no auxiliary steering. Weather moderated. (CANDYTUFT 1630/28 to C. in C., W.A.)
RASO	Bombed in 55° 12' N., 20° W. (Lyness W/T 0927/28)
Convoy S.C. 19 RUTH ONE	(Norwegian, 3531 tons) Bombed in 55° 55' N 13° 20' W. (Lyness T.O.R. 1026/28)
	RUTH ONE now O.K. 0930/28. (Lyness W/T 0949/28)
ORKLROSA	In S.C. 19. Bombed, 31 survivors in VOLUNTEER. (DS 513)
Convoy E.N. Odd	Fighter protection has been despatched to assistance of odd numbered E.N. Convoy (Rosyth W/T 1207/28)
Iceland	O. 522 Cipher 28/1. Reference Iceland one in 25000 66° 03' N., 23° 32' W. Coast waters Flateyri report seeing at 1000/27 small red single engined float biplane flying west 3/4000 feet (? reported) resembled Icelandic Airways float plane but definitely no aircraft except Battles off ground at time. No confirmation other sources. (G.O.C. Iceland 1635/28 to War Office)

/Enemy....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Enemy A/C Markings

My 1147/26. It is further reported that some German Aircraft show markings consisting of a Swastika on a circular white background. These may be mistaken for British markings. (D.D.I.C., 1825/28)

Mining

Rosyth Command Mines washed ashore.

During the easterly gales from January 19th to 27th 2 German floating mines and 112 British have been washed ashore as follows:-

During the same period 31 mines were sunk by patrols and 5 unidentified explosions at sea were reported. (C. in C., Rosyth, 0940/28)

IMPULSIVE

Sailed 0945/28. (F.O.Humber 0946/28)

Dundee Area Port Closed

Two more magnetic mines detonated off Buddon Ness lights making three this forenoon. Request port of Dundee may be closed until approaches to channel can be swept which is now impossible due to weather. (N.O.I.C., Dundee, 1303/28)

Port of Dundee closed due to enemy minelaying. (C. in C., Rosyth 1359/28)

Strongly suspect that the three mines detonated by LL L trawlers in Mouth of Tay were controlled mines from M. 4 loop. Reasons.

Can it be reasonably presumed that these were our own mines, and can port be reopened. No evidence that hostile aircraft have been over this area for several weeks. (N.O.I.C., Dundee, 1751/28 to Admty.)

Three detonations caused by LL sweeps occurred today in River Tay off Budden High Light. Port has been closed pending further LL search and investigation of controlled minefield in vicinity. (C. in C., Rosyth 2009/28)

/B.S. 50.....

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Mining

B.S. 50 — Intend TEVIOT BANK and QUORN to sail from Spurn Point at 1500/30 and take departure from 21 C Buoy at 1000/31. Returning to 21 C Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1200/31. (S.O. Minelayers, Immingham, 1330/28)

TAFELBERG — (Oil refinery, 13,640 tons) Mined in 51° 21' 48" N., 3° 16' W. Beached. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1422/28)

My 1422/28 ship has been beached in Forth Kerry Bay and, circumstances permitting will be beached in Whitmore Bay tonight. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1551/28)

Wick Area — 335. Two explosions reported apparently mines.
(A) half mile North of Wick
(B) half mile South of Latheronwheel
Harbour. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1546/28)

Aberdeen — C.A.F.O. 663/40 and 1331/40. A considerable number of German conical anti-mine sweeping explosive containers have been washed up in the Aberdeen sub command. It is considered that probably enemy mines have been in the vicinity, but not confirmed by searching up to now. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1601/28)

F.D. 29 by CACHALOT — My 1303/14 para. 2. Operation successfully completed. (F.O.S., 1617/28)

Minelaying by Aircraft — AP/797 28/1. For tonight. (H.Q.C.C. 1655/28)

INTREPID — My 1544/27. Sailed. (N.E.I.C. Blyth, 1711/28)

Iceland-Faroes Barrier. — It is now a matter of first importance to press on with laying the mines in Iceland-Faroes Barrier. Request you will arrange the necessary A/S and other escort to enable R.A.M.L. to operate in the immediate future. (1st S.L. 1749/28 to C. in C., H.F.)

/Firth of Forth....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Firth of Forth.

Drifter detonated a mine at 1412/27, in 56° 03' 30" N. 02° 59' 00" W. No damage sustained. Area has been LL and S.A. swept today with negative result. (C. in C. Rosyth 1619/28.)

Bristol Channel.

Mineleying suspected. Ships are not to leave Avonmouth Barry Cardiff, Newport until further orders. Ships may leave Swansea only if bound to westward. Incoming shipping to anchor to westward of Breakmee. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2030/28.)

My 2030/28. No ships are to leave Swansea or Barry Inlet until further orders. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2135/28.)

Pentland to Aberdeen sweep.

F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1617/26 and N.O.I.C. Aberdeen's 1601/28. Request you will concert with A.C.H.S. for maximum sweeping effort between Pentland Firth and Aberdeen on track of ship. (A.C.H.S. H. 2116/28. to C. in C. Rosyth.)

Milford Haven.

Port of Milford Haven is closed owing to suspected mine laying by enemy aircraft. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2157/28.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Unit.

At 0337/28 G.M.T. unknown enemy unit transmitted from position in great circle joining Baldock and Bermuda. A 3rd Class bearing of 340° from Ascension gives a position in approximately 45° 30' N. 38° 0' W. Position probably further to eastward. (D.D.I.C. 0817/28 to C. in C. H.F. VANE, C. in C. A.W.I, F.O.C.N.A, KING GEORGE V.)

At 1109/28 G.M.T. the following D/F bearing of unknown Enemy Unit was obtained. (D.D.I.C. 1257/28. to C. in C. H.F.)

/At 2115/28.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

	Enemy Intelligence. Contd.
Enemy Unit.	At 2115/28. B.B.T. unknown Unit bearing as follows. No indication of type of Vessel transmitting. (D.D.I.C. 2280/28 to C. in C. H.F.)
	Herring fishing fleet may be working off coast laying between Sogne Fiord and Egersund and may be under German Naval protection. Probable methods are (a) Seine net keeping close inshore (b) Trawling along hundred fathom line. (F.O.S. 0957/28 to S/M's Area A.)
	A/C reports. At 1948 6 merchant ships 500 to 3000 tons in position 048° 25' North 004° 50' West course 360° 8 knots. (F.O.S. 1512/28 to S/M's Area B.)
Requisition of Danish Navy.	Information A.I. and N.I.D. Comment. (N.A. Stockholm 1632/28 to D.N.I.)
Enemy M/V's in Bay of Biscay.	At 1945/A/C report 3 merchant ships 900 tons in position course and speed 048° North 005° West 160° 8 knots. At 1300 2 Merchant Ships 1000 tons in position 047° 35' North 004° 10' West course 270°. At 1555 2 merchant ships 1000 tons in position 047° 45' North 004° West course 160°. (F.O.S. 2132/28. to S/M's Area B.)
FORMOSA. Preparations for invasions etc.	Report by Snd. Engineer of RAHJA (A.C.O. 2209/28.) (Operation "Rubble" 16/12/40. Danzig December 1940.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Iceland
ASTRID
THORDEN.

IMMO
RAGNAR.

German permission given for Finnish ship ASTRID THORDEN at present in Gothenburg to bring hot water pipes to Reykjavik for town central heating scheme. Icelanders also propose Finnish ship IMMO RAGNAR Gothenburg returning with pipes. Scheme highly important in Icelandic eyes and also to us, hence I consider it desirable to risk some security in order to meet Icelandic Government this project. If scheme authorised I would take special security steps to deal with incoming vessels.(C.O.C. Iceland Force, 0031/28, to W.O.) Recd: from War Office 0803/29.

GLENARTNEY.
GLAN BUCHANAN
STRATHMORE.

Routes and E.T.A.(D.T.D. 1453/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

Independent
Ships.

My 1618/27. Existing instructions relating to fast outward-bound independent ships remain unchanged. Viz:- they should be sailed so as to cross the arc of a circle of 150 miles radius from Malin Head at 1800 B.S.T. (D.T.D. 1642/28 to C. in C. W.A.)

SKAANE
(Danish)

Your 1600/24/10. Engines on SKAANE are urgently required in U.K. We continue to want the Ship but if it is impossible to secure Ship and Engines we should try to find out what chances there are of securing latter alone. Please investigate urgently. (D.T.D.1824/28 to Consul, Lisbon.)

General.

Positions, convoys and independent ships. (D.T.D. to C. in C. H.F. 1149/28.

Coastal Convoys.
F. 4. 37.

Sailed 2300/27. Approx. 17 ships. (H.C.S.O. Methil 0015/28.)

/F.S.36.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.S.96. Position at daylight 28/1. 052° 40' N. 002° 10' E.(WOOLSTON, 0106/28 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

E.N.63. (A) 0400/28, (B) H.M.T.'s SOUTHERN PRIDE, PENTLAND FIRTH. Additional escort JASON. (C) 14 ships, 7 with kites(numbers approximate) (N.C.S.O. Methil 0601/28 to A.C.W.A.)

W.N.76.(O) Sailed W.N.76 (O) 1500/27 unescorted. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0907/28. to C. in C. W.A.)

F.N.91. Arrived 0930/28.(N.C.S.O. Methil 1008/28.)

F.N.91. Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1014/28.)

F.N.92. Arrived 0940/28. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1016/28.)

VESLIKARI Norwegian steam vessel VESLIKARI sailed from Aberdeen 1900/27 for Kirkwall routed coastwise to Logie Head thence Clytheness anchors onwards. Arrival not reported. Request enquiry.(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1031/28 to A.C.O.S.)

K.C. My 1325/27 and 1731/27. Detach two destroyers forthwith to Scapa. (C. in C. W. A. 1103/28, to WHITEHALL.)

F.N.94. 0956/28 7 ships.(N.C.S.O. Thames 1119/28.)

/F.N.92.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.N.92. Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1132/28.)

O.B.C.280. (a) 2130/30. (b) Not known. (c) 40. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1210/28.)

F.N.94. Harwich 28/1. Departure H.M.D. SILVER SEAS at 1251 to join F.N.94 for HULL. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1239/28.)

W.N.75. Passing through Pentland Firth at 1335. (A.C.O.S., 1352/28.)

O.B.279. Sailed 1240/28. 13 ships. 9 knots. 2 with kites. (N.O.S.O. Mersey 1357/28.)

F.S.97. For F.S. convoy 97.20 from Tyne 11 from Blyth. 18 from Middlesborough. (C. in C. Rosyth 1405/28 to VIMEIRA, VALOROUS.

My 1405. Number joining from Tyne Area likely to be considerably reduced. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2116/28, to VIMEIRA, VALOROUS.)

19 ships joining F.S. Convoy odd numbered 97 at 62D. Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2226/28, to VIMEIRA, VALOROUS.

F.N.93. For F.N.93, 4 from Blyth 1 from Sunderland 1 from Middlesbrough. (C. in C. Rosyth 1406/28 to VANITY, VERSATILE.)

F.S.99. Will sail at 1800, not 2300/29. Speed will be adjusted so that Convoy will not be ahead of normal scheduled times off Tyne or at No.8 Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 1513/28 to Admty etc.)

/F.S.94.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.S.94.
95, 96.

F.S.94, 95 and 96 arrived.(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1521/28, to N.C.S.O. Methil.)

W.N.75.
E.N.63.
F.N.93.
F.S.97.

Movements tonight 28/29. Convoys,W.N.75, estimated off Noss Head 1630/28, E.N.63 Buchan Ness 2100/28.F.N.93, Scarborough 2000/28. F.S.97, E.T.A, 20 C 2100/28.(C. in C. Rosyth, 1546/28.)

O.B.O.279.

0300/29/1, escort H.M.T. KING SOL 6 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1551/28.)

W.N.76.

W.N.76 route P. E.T.A, Dunnet Head 1000/29, speed of advance 7 knots. (? STELLA CAPELLA, 1709/28 to A.C.O.S.)

F.N.92.

Arrived except BELGIA. (N.C.S.O. Sunderland, 1710/28.)

F.N.94.

6 ships from Humber joining at 62 D buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1730/28.)

F.S.97.

19 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1724/28.)

C.W.24.

Owing to stress of weather only 9 Merchant Ships are available for C.W.24. (C. in C. Nore, 1736/28 to N.C.S.O. Thames etc.)

F.S.97.

Sailed from Methil 2300/27/1. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1746/28 to Admty etc.)

W.N.77.

(A) 0400/31. (B) Nil. (C) Six. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1825/28 to Admty.)

W.N.76.

Loch Ewe section sailed 1900 less SOLSTAD steering gear defective. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1848/28 amended 1459/29.)

/O.B. 279.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

O.B.279. — Escort for O.B. 279. AUBRETIA from Liverpool, ARROW OURAGON MISTRAL HOLLYHOCK DANEMAN from Clyde and KING SOL from Oban. ARROW S.O. MISTRAL is limited to speed of 17 knots owing to engine defect. (Capt. D. Greenock, 1915/28 to C. in C.W.A.)

O.B.A. (special) — To relieve congestion at west coast ports a special O.B. Convoy comprising not more than 12 ships is to be sailed from Oban and Loch Ewe. The Oban Portion leaving on 30/1. Convoy will be known as O.B.A, code word ROBIN and will be escorted by HAVELOCK and HESPERUS. HAVELOCK is to proceed to Oban for conference, HESPERUS take Loch Ewe portion. (C. in C. W.A., 1937/28 to N.C.S.O. Oban.)

F.N.94. — 6 ships joining F.N.94 at 62 D buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1955/28 to FLEETWOOD, WALLACE.)

~~W.N.64.~~ — Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.64 sailing 0500/30. After passing DUNNET HEAD proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. to sail FOWEY to join W.N.77 due Duncansby Head 1330/1. Code word for E.N.64 PADDLE and W.N.77 MUSTER. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2000/28, to FOWEY.)

Rosyth Command State. 28/1:- (C).

Ships.	(B) Duty.	Destination.
VANITY VERSATILE	F.N.93.	Rosyth 30th.
FLEETWOOD WALLACE	F.N.94.	Rosyth 30th.
VIMIERA VALOROUS.	F.S.97.	Sheerness "
JASON.	E.N.63.	Rosyth 30th.
WESTON.	W.N.75.	Rosyth 29th.

F.N.93.
F.N.94.
F.S.97.
E.N.63.
W.N.75.

(C. in C. Rosyth, 2001/28.)

/H.M.V.'s.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

11 M.M.V.'s. Intend sailing at 1700/29 to St. Helen's Roads via St. Catherine's. 11 M/Vs. including 2 Tankers. 4 for onward routing to Shoreham. E.T.A. Hab. 0830/30. Also 1 M/V for Poole. E.T.A. 0830/30. Escorts A/S T.B. ST. GATHAN and CAPE COMORIN. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth, 2056/28.)

F.N.92. Rosyth 28/1. Arrivals: WESTMINSTER and COTSWOLD with F.N.92.

E.N.63. Departures: SOUTHERN PRIDE PENTLAND FIRTH and JASON. Latter as additional escort to PENTLAND FIRTH with E.N.63. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2215/28.)

F.N.95. Request you will sail SOUTHDOWN to join F.N.95 off Sunk Light Vessel tomorrow Wednesday. SOUTHDOWN is to proceed to Rosyth with Convoy and on arrival is to come under orders of C. in C. Rosyth. WOOLSTON is to be S.O. of Escort notwithstanding that SOUTHDOWN is Senior. (C. in C. Nore, 2340/28 to F.O.I.C. Harwich.)

O.B.C.279. (A) 2145/28/1. (B) ARROW, CURACAO, MISTRAL, HOLLYHOCK, DANEMAN.C.(12 ships (5 with kites)(H.C.S.O. Clyde, 2510/28 amended 1445/29.)

Ocean Convoys.
H.X.105. H.X.105 not met. Aircraft has not seen convoy. My p.c. and s. 061° 00' H.014° 30' W. 090°, 8 knots.(Weather) (WHITEHALL, 1000/28 to C. in C.W.A.)

/B.H.X.106.....

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

B.H.X.106.	Departure B.H.X. 106. Ocean Escort HALCYA returning Halifax through 044° 40' N. 60° 00' W. (Com.in/c. Bermuda, 1203/28.)
S.C.19.	My p.c. and s. are 055° 59' North 015° 50' West 080° 12 knots. Request position S.C.19. (HEATHER 1800/28 to ANTELOPE.)
H.X. 101.	On time at R.V. Considerable straggling on account of weather. All ships now arrived. (D.T.D. 1639/28 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
MILITARY CONVOYS - Force Z. GEORGIC.	Adty. 1655/28. Route for force Z and GEORGIC from Clyde. 2. GEORGIC is to part company at position (iv) and proceed to Bermuda 3. When DORSETSHIRE joins at rendezvous Q, KENYA is to proceed to Plymouth. 4. ASSINIBOINE, OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT and JACKAL are detailed as destroyer escort and are to part company so as to join FURIOUS and NEPTUNE at rendezvous K in 053 deg. 15' N, 022 deg. 23' W. at 1200/Z/28. B.S.T. 5. Inward route for H.M.S. FURIOUS and H.M.S. NEPTUNE will be signalled separately. 6. Force Z is to sail as near 1800/31 as practicable so as to decrease danger of air attack in N.W. Approaches.(C. in C.W.A. 1231/28. to N.O.I.C. Greenock.)
WAR PINDARI.	NAPIER with SOMALI provide escort for Oiler WAR PINDARI who is passing Swithe 1800 today, proceeding to Skaale Fjord routed in accordance with A.C.C.S. sailing orders. Paragraph two. Await further orders at Skaale Fjord. (R.A.D. H.F. 1626/28 to D.7.)

MOST SECRET.

28. 1. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

VERSATILE. steering gear failed again. [illegible] anchoring 3 cables 050° 34' E. Buoy. Expect to be about 2 hours. (VERSATILE 0825/28 to VANITY.)

CORHAMPTON. (British, 2495 Tons) Ashore Haisbro South Middle Shoal. Require immediate assistance. (CORHAMPTON 0826/28.)

Barge Tugs NORLANDO and RICHARD LE BARBER proceeding from Yarmouth to assist. (C. in C. Nore 0847/28.)

S.O.S. DE CORHAMPTON now cleared. (Humber Radio 0755/28.)

Cancel distress signal reports. Now afloat and proceeding. (CORHAMPTON 0900/28.)

SANDHILL. (British, 586 Tons) Proceed with despatch to assist in 206° Chicken Rock 12. 5 miles at 2347/27. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0047/28 to SCHELDE.)

Sailed Tug SCHELDE from Campbeltown to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0355/28.)

My 0047. Proceed to SANDHILL now reported in Dundrum Bay near Roaring Rock 4 miles South of Newcastle. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1443/28 to SCHELDE.)

HOMESIDE. (British, 4617 Tons.) In 43° 58' N. 15°, 40' W. Leaking heavily in 1 hold. Requires immediate assistance. (Valentia Radio 0925/28.)

Now taking to boats. (Lands End W/T. 0945/28.)

FITZROY. Sailed 0916/28, in tow of Tug KENIA at 0916 for Sheerness, escorted by H.M. Trawler TOURMALINE and LADY PHILOMENA. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 0950/28.)

/EDINBURGH.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

SANDENBURGH — (Dutch, 944 tons) Ashore near Longscar Seaton. (N.O.I.C., Hartlepool, 0950/28)

ST. FRANCIS — Delayed by hull and degaussing defects. (N.O.I.C., Greenock, 1045/28)

PEGASUS — If PEGASUS is not in company with convoy one ship is to be detailed to stand by her. Her position was 055° 32' N., 019° 02' W., at 2000/27, course 080, speed 1 knot. (C. in C., W.A., 1053/28 to ANTELOPE)

Position at 1115/28 was 055° 38' N., 017° 57' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1929/28 to ASSURANCE, RESTIVE)

Your 1929. PEGASUS safe in company with Convoy steaming seven knots. (ANTELOPE 2130/28 to C. in C., WA)

MAC GREGOR
LAIRD — Detach one corvette to stand by MAC GREGOR LAIRD reported in distress in 054° 03' N., 024° 12' W., at 2000/27 drifting 135° 1.5 knots. Ships detailed to remain until arrival of NORTHERN SPRAY and tugs after which corvette rejoins convoy. (C. in C., W.A., 1059/28 to MALLOW)

PEGASUS
MAC GREGOR
LAIRD — ASSURANCE and RESTIVE are after passing through 56° 00' N., 16° W., to proceed to make contact with PEGASUS who will be in approx 55° 38' N., 18° 16' W., at 2000 today steering 080° 1 knot. On making contact RESTIVE is to stand by PEGASUS and ASSURANCE continue in company with NORTHERN SPRAY to assistance of MAC GREGOR LAIRD. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1218/28 to ASSURANCE, RESTIVE)

FREYA — Your 1055/27 and 0930/28. Tug KENIA on return is to call at Southend and pick up Salvage vessel FREYA for towage to Harwich. (C.C.R.T. 1202/28 to C. in C., Nore)

SILVER SEAS — (M/S Drifter) My 1215/27. Returned owing to defect. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1746/28)

/WESTCOTT.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

28.1.1941.
Tuesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

WESTCOTT
BLUEBELL

Have been in collision and lost all steam. Request tug. BLUEBELL is standing by. Estimated position 055° 30' N., 012° 15' W. (WESTCOTT 1956/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

Have been in collision with WESTCOTT. Bow damaged unlikely peak flooded. Can proceed 8 knots. Am standing by WESTCOTT (BLUEBELL 2030/28)

My 1956/28. Am proceeding to North Channel at approximately 4 knots escorted by BLUEBELL who has fore peak flooded and can steam 9 knots. My forward steering gear and degaussing gear broken down, number 3 boiler rooms flooded to waterline. Bulkhead still holding. Have only 90 tons oil fuel remaining. Consider tug still necessary. (WESTCOTT 2241/28 to C. in C., W.A.)

WIRTA

Admiralty 1123/28. Ship reported aground in my 1651/24 and my 1256/25 was Finnish WIRTA 4028 tons. Master (?was) proceeding to Reykjavik for boiler repairs. WIRTA now total loss. (F.O.I.C., Iceland 2130/28)

ALHENA

(Dutch, 4930 tons) Struck South Rock. Asking immediate assistance. Holds 1 and 2 making 15 feet water. Position one mile inside South Rock Light Vessel. (ALHENA 2301/28)

Ship is heavily bumping on rocks. We want immediate tugs. (ALHENA 2331/28)

MOST SECRET.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

SONTAY. Following particulars of SONTAY are in addition to my 1200/26. Ship carries some 240 invalids (details). Four French Army Doctors on board. Owing to shortage of oil fuel and fresh water Captain apprehensive of long delay; he states he has about 450 tons possible Contraband.
(C.O. Force T. 0808/28 to C. in C. S.A. E.I. etc.).

F.O.I.C. Simonstown reports T.O.O. 2020/27. no advantage in sending SONTAY to Simonstown as ship can only be dealt with by Union Authorities as at any other Union Port. Under war measure No. 9 the cargo etc. are subject to seizure (as in case of JEAN L.D. at Capetown) but powers do not extend to seizing ship itself. Request early information whether instructions in your 1311/6/11 and 1848/22/1 are still to be observed re French ships. Presume Union Govt. would not object to ship being sent on to a British Port if necessary but desirable to remove troops first.
(C. in C. S.A. 1403/28 to Admty).

French Warship. My 1619/27. French 4 funnels warship had X. 73 on her side. She returned southward convoying French Merchant Vessel.
(N.A. Lisbon 1996/28 to Admty).

French Convoys. Gibraltar 28/1. 1000. French Survey ship NOTAFETTE escorting French S.S. BRETOIS, AUVERGNE, passed from East to West 1230 French S/M's AMPHITRITE LA SIBYLLE AMALONE escorted by French M/S sloop L'IMPETUEUSE passed from West to East.
(S.O.I. Gib. 1233/28).

Gibraltar 1630/28 French Minesweeper TAPAGEUSE escorting French Merchant ships VILLE DE ROUEN. CHATEAU-YQUEM. IBERVILLE 2 PECCAGEL passed (? Eastbound).
(S.O.I. Gib. 1711/28).

/SENATEUR.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French. (contd).

SENATEUR DUHAMEL.
JOSEPH DUHAMEL.

My 2116/8 para 1 (a). It was necessary to draw on crews AVANT-GARDE and L'ORAGE to supplement crews of SENATEUR DUHAMEL and JOSEPH DUHAMEL. Following are now required for latter two ships.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1852/28 to Admty).

North Atlantic.

NEPTUNE.

Detach NEPTUNE as requisite to arrive Northern entrance 1200/29.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0244A/28 to SHEFFIELD).

NEPTUNE.
SHEFFIELD.
H.G. 52.

My 1916/27 (Departure NEPTUNE and SHEFFIELD to cover H.G. 52 returning 1200/28 and 1200/30 respectively) for 1200/28 read 1200/29.
(S.O.I. Gib., 0910/28, to Admty).

F.A.A. Sqdns.

Your 1231/19/1/41. Re Accommodation. Acting Governor would wish to consult War Office before giving final approval, and considers that Ambassador at Madrid must be consulted before any such increased use is made of the landing ground.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0938/28 to Admty).

RENOWN.
ARK ROYAL.

RENOWN and ARK ROYAL proceed to sea P.M/28 returning A.M. and P.M./29 respectively for double purpose of carrying out exercises and creating diversion.
(S.O. Force H, 1141/28 to Admty).

Gibraltar 1550/28, departure RENOWN ARK ROYAL FIREDRAKE ENCOUNTER FORESIGHT JUBERRY and JUPITER in accordance with S.O. Force H. 1141/28.
(S.O.I. Gib, 1552/28).

/S.O.S.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

S.O.S. Report. — Following received on 5400 kc/s at 0945/28 (begins) S.O.S. 43.52 N. 18.40 W. leskinghave taken to boats (ends) English plain language. No call sign or signal letters. (FOC N A 1217/28)

STRATHEDEN.
NORTHERN PRINCE. — Routes.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1302/28 to N.A. Station).

800 Sqdn.
F.A.A. — Your 1951/19. Favour retention at Gibraltar.
(S.O. Force H. 1412/28 to Admty).
See Operations Volume.

Air Report.
F/B attacked by French fighters. — Daily summary operations. 1 routine A/S Patrol. 2 convoy escorts westward. 2 searches in area between Casablanca and convoy and 1 patrol off Casablanca as convoy had number of seized French ships. 1 London attacked by 2 French fighters 5 miles from Rabat. Only slight damage to London. No casualties. Area 4° W. to 10° W.
(200 Group 1733/28).

SCHARNHORST.
GNEISENAU. — Adty. 2321/27. The possibility of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU entering the Mediterranean cannot be ruled out.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2035/28 to F.O.C.N.A).

QTUS. — QTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada.
(F.O.C.N.A., 2216/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Troopships Drydocking. Request early reply to my 0205/23 in light of delay to OTRANTO reported in your 1130/25. Understand from Campbell Capetown that VICEROY OF INDIA and DUCHESS OF ATHOLL were proceeding Capetown direct arriving 27/1 and on assumption that opportunity of drydocking at Durban had thereby been missed he was authorised to retain them until 29/1 to load cargo but was requested to contact with you before doing so. Presume in any case repair work to OTRANTO detailed in Egypt's 1747/13 will be carried out during stay in Durban.
(D.S.T. 0818/28 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA. American Broadcast reports intercepting signals from EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA saying ship was sinking after being torpedoed and gunned off African coast. Have you any information?
(D.D.I.C. 0933/28 to C. in C. S.A).

Your 0933/28 EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA is in harbour at Freetown and no raider reported in the vicinity.
(C. in C. S.A. 0955Z/28 to Admty).

PETTER. Overdue shipping. Norwegian PETTER due Capetown 24th from Abadan not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1003Z/28 to Admty etc).

DUNEDIN.)
VELOX.)
VIDETTE.) F.O.C.N.A. 2350/27 and my 1731/27. Route for convoy. (C. in C. S.A. 1005Z/28 to DUNEDIN) See Operations Volume.

Suspicious Ship. United States Ship CHARLES H. CRAMP steering 138° on 14/1 in 000° N. 019° W. sighted ship on starboard bow which closed him passing under stern steering parallel and then resumed original course. Speed throughout about 12 knots. Name not clearly read but might have been British ship SCOTTISH TRADER. (Description).
(S.O.I. Capetown, 1046/28 to Admty etc).

/Coast.....

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Coast Defences.

Your 1143/20. This question has received full consideration. In view of (a) general shortage of coast defence equipments, (b) 4.5" equipments having range of 23,000 yards, and (c) provision of up to three Blenheim bombers, it has been decided that defences will be sufficient for present requirements. (D. of L.D. 1119/28 to C. in C. S.A.).

BULOLO.
TAMERLANE.

BULOLO leaves Freetown at 0600/29 to r.v. with TAMERLANE in position 004° 42'N. 031° 50'W. at 1300 G.M.T. 1/2 and escort to Takoradi. BULOLO informed of TAMERLANE's route as in N.C.S.O. New York's 1048/22. (C. in C. S.A. 1125N/28 to C. in C. A.W.I).

MANGALAU.
TREVAYLOR.
INDUS.

Southbound ships crossing 20° N. Speed, Approximate Noon positions, 29/1 and Routes.
(D.T.D. 1158/28 to S.A. Stn).

C.S.I. to R.V. with MENDOZA.

My 1403/27/1 and 1329/25 R.V. with MENDOZA escorted by DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON in position 000° 50'N. 010° 40'W. at 1200 N./30 remain in company until arrival at Freetown directing force as required. It has been reported French warships may endeavour to intercept MENDOZA and though not likely possibility exists.
(C. in C. S.A. 1349/28 to C.S.I.).

TAMERLANE.

My 1259/27. In view of possibility of renewed U/B activity suggest TAMERLANE should keep to Southward of 1° 30'N. between 20° W. and 5° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1353/28 to C. in C. S.A).

/BURJEE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.(contd).

MURJEK. Your 2029/21. Owners of MURJEK state Norwegian members of crew landed at Santos and that ship is now proceeding Gothenburg.
(D.N.W.D. 1421/28 to S.O.I. Freetown).

DEVONSHIRE. Your 0653/27 (calling for 1603/21. No previous trace of receipt in W.R.). Following is repetition of my 1603/21:- Simonstown arrival 21/1 DEVONSHIRE.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1439/28 to Admty).

MOUZINHO. Censorship of Mails. GUINE. ANGOLA. Your 1147/27 concur. In view of discrepancy between mail bags actually on board MOUZINHO (2172) and number believed to have been embarked at Lisbon (1146) request report of mails in Portuguese ships GUINE and ANGOLA when they arrive Freetown shortly, showing number of bags for the various destinations embarked at various ports.
(D.N.W.D. 1643/28, to C. in C. S.A).

CAP DES PALMES. TOUAREG. Following from Cloud Adams. Your 1637/16 para seven CAP DES PALMES lowest temperature obtainable is 30° F. Speed is now about 15½ knots. Your 1457/26 para 4 I consider TOUAREG could make U.K. at about nine knots With three vessels at Duala and three at Pointe Noire have urgent need for adequate financial arrangements.
(N.O.I.C. Duala, 1905/28 to Admty).

Your 1748/25. D. of S.T. 2003/24 states French Brigade is to be sent to Freetown for transhipment to EMPIRE TROOPER. Request information for what ship COMMANDANT DUBOC is required as escort?(C. in C. S.A. 2121/28, to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Malta Air Report. Convoy attacked. 1 M.V. Sunk.	Special Operational Summary. My "I" 60 27/1. As result of report by Sunderland on anti-convoy patrol, 7 Swordfish 830 Squadron F.A.A. despatched and attacked 3 M/V's 1 of whicharmed in position 212 Lampedusa 85 miles at 1350 hours 27/1. 2 Fulmars 806 Squadron F.A.A. acted as protective escort. Leading ship 4000 tons acting as escort dive-bomb D.4 250 lbs. bombs near miss by 1 Swordfish. 2nd Ship 6000 tons attacked with Torpedoes by 3 Swordfish possible hit stern last seen clouds of white smoke and down by stern. 3rd ship 4000 tons attacked with torpedoes by 3 Swordfish direct hit amidships broke back and sank crew taking to boats. Slight (corrupt group) from leading ship. All Swordfish and Fulmars returned undamaged.
Naples attacked, also, Capodichino, Catania, Comiso.	Part 2.Night 27/28th Jan. Wellingtons attacked Capodichino (Naples) aerodrome Naples central station and junction and marshalling yards Catania and Comiso Aerodromes, from 1930 to 2100 hours. Smoke screen over Naples harbour. Moderate accurate heavy A.A. and some light from 3 ships off Catania and 1 off Augusta. 1 Wellington dropped 2500 lb G.P. and 960 lbs. incendiaries on Comiso aerodrome from 6000 feet. Raiders operating against Malta at night evidently based Comiso. (M.A. R.A.F, Med, 0815/28).
Warships for Turkey.	Reply to C. in C. Med. 1137/20 giving dates of completion. Turks are being urged to provide steaming crews for destroyers and submarines. (Controller 0956/28 to C. in C. Med).

/Enemy.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd)..

Enemy Intelligence.	Report from American N.A. re German aircraft south of line Naples, Bari and in Sicily. Morale of Italian Navy still good but discontented. Only 2 battleships considered fit to fight. (N.A. Madrid to D.N.I. 0917/28).
Mining.	On 23/1 a gale in Adriatic swept many mines on to Dalmatian Coast. The Bench have declared a danger area of 3 miles radius centre position 3'45° from Zembra, Gulf of Tunis (D.S. 512).
Air attack on enemy M.V's by Fulmars and Swordfish.	Six Swordfish escorted by two Fulmars from Malta attacked convoy of three merchant ships escorted by auxiliaries steering 180 degs. in position 34.18 north 11.45 east at 1550B/27. Leading ship 4000 tons dive bombed near miss, second ship 6000 tons possibly hit by one torpedo aft last seen under cloud of smoke down by stern and crew in boats, rear ship German 4000 tons hit amidships and sank. From Y. report one ship concerned was possibly armed merchant ship (corrupt group) CARALIS. (C. in C. Med., 1021/28 to Admty). My 1021/28. Suggest no communique be issued. (C. in C. Med 1351/28).
German aircraft in Sicily.	C. in C. Med 1025/28 See Mediterranean Volume.
Air Report.	Operation Summary No. 232 up to 1200 hours 28.1.1941.
Apollonia, Derna, Benghazi, Derna.	Days 26/1, 27/1. Blenheims bombed Apollonia landing ground. R.C. reported no change in shipping Benghazi. Enemy have abandoned 14 unserviceable aircraft on Derna landing ground. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1149/28).

/ILLUSTRIOUS.....

War Diary. 28.1.1941. Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

ILLUSTRIOUS. Radio Rome Communique of 27/1 states ILLUSTRIOUS lost. Can her arrival at Alexandria be promulgated to press? (N.A. Lisbon, 1203/28 to Admty).

Turkish War Material requirements. N.A. Ankara 1226/28.

Enemy Air Attacks. Brief summary of enemy air attacks on Force H. and Med. Fleet. for information. (D.T.S.D. to C. in C's, 1354/28).

JAGUAR. My 0859/21. I dislike passing ships without bow protection through Narrows, which have already cost us 3 Destroyers, particularly when I cannot provide support in case things should go wrong. If it is decided to send her, JAGUAR would be passed through to Malta and onward probably when next M.W. convoy is sailed. Short though we are of light craft the ship must go if need elsewhere is great enough to justify the passage but otherwise I propose she remains with Med. Fleet.
(C. in C. Med. 1327/28 to Admty).

Ammunition. Your 1401/27. Details on passage.
(D.T.S.D. 1401/28 to C. in C. Med).
See Med. Vol.

Night Raids on Malta. 1936 to 2013 2 enemy aircraft circled over Malta probably unable to distinguish Island as no searchlights exposed and possibly relying on flare paths being lit for returning Wellingtons. No bombs dropped. 0518 to 0557 1 enemy aircraft approached Island and flew away re-appearing shortly afterwards, without warning by R.D.F. A.A. engaged. No results. 3 bombs dropped on Luqa aerodrome. Some damage and casualties

4

Tripoli.....

MOST SECRET.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Tripoli. Recco.	Recco. 0847 to 1108 Glenn Martin photo recco Tripoli, Mallaha, Castel Benito. Tripoli Harbour 2 destroyers 2 large and 1 medium M/V 9 fleet auxiliaries also large quantity barges or fishing smacks. 4 seaplanes sighted 2 large and 6 small M/V (latter possibly auxiliaries) 20 miles W.N.W. of Harbour heading for Harbour. Mellaha and Castel Benito nothing visible. 2 Swordfish effected anti submarine patrol. Nil report. (H.Q. Malta, 1700/28).
Convoy A.N. 14.	Sailing telegram (1) A.N. 14 (2) 1700/28. (10 Ships) DESTRO for Suda Bay remainder for Piraeus. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1716/28 to Admty).
Egypt Truck Ships.	Your 1045/19/12 to N.C. Halifax regarding Indian Cargo on Egypt truck ships. Have advised Montreal no objection Egypt truck ships completing broken stowage with general cargo for India in case of need. In view of economy achieved by this combination Canal does not important consideration. (D.S.T. 1745/28 to P.S.T.O. Egypt).
Naval Situation in Eastern Med.	Review (C. in C. Med 1745/28) See Mediterranean Volume (Lion Copy only).
S.A. Gear.	A.N. 1818/18. Re despatch of S.A. gear. (D.M.S. 1908/28 to C. in C. Med, etc).
M.T.B's.	Asking Admiralty intentions. (C. in C. Med. 2245/28 to Admty). See Mediterranean Volume.
ILLUSTRIOUS.	Work done at Alexandria to make her seaworthy and requesting instructions. (C. in C. Med. 2255/28 to Admty) See Mediterranean Vol.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop Movement.

Your 1520/25 (?1420/25) DOMINION MONARCH not available. She is full loaded with priority cargo for U.K. and is required for W.S. 8. 2. Your 1404/25 (?1424/25) CHRISTIAN HUYGENS is also required for W.S. 8. and it is therefore desirable to avoid her use if possible. She is to load cargo in Mombasa for U.K. (D.S.T.0005/28 to C. in C. E.I).

Ammunition reserves.

Your 0450/21 E. class destroyers should adjust to new outfit. Far Eastern reserve can be drawn on if emergency requires but further supplies will take into account impending relief of E. class by Hunt class. (D.A.S. 0105/28 to C. in C. E.I).

Convoy.

Sailing telegram (3 ships for Colombo, etc). (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan 0600/28, 06302/28).

Mogadiscio, Kismayu.

Reply to S.O. Force K. 2159/25. (C. in C. E.I. 06342/28) See Operations Vol.

Troop Transport.

Your 2247/18 and subsequent signals. Proposals for ORBITA, DOMINION MONARCH, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS. (C. in C. E.I. to D.S.T. 0710/28). See Operations Vol.

CAPETOWN.

To join Force K. Route and date. (C. in C. E.I. 08102/28) See Operations Vol.

Convoys, Bombay.

Your 1222/26 and my 1232/27. Convoys expected at Bombay and suggested transhipment of U.S. 9 be carried out at Colombo. (F.O.C.R.I.N. 07062/28 to C. in C. E.I). See Operations Volume.

/Loss.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Loss of Oil Fuel, Ceylon.

My 1316/12/12 concerning loss of oil fuel from New China Vadi Fuel Installation. Result of enquiry. Probable that loss occurred through negligence on the part of native employees.
(Capt. I/C Ceylon 1152/28 to Admty).

Supply Ship for Greece.

It is inevitable that a number of ships, especially Greeks and ships bound for Greece, passing through the Red Sea during the next few months, will be of less than 8 knots. In view of the urgency of the Greek supply problem it is important that these ships should not be unduly delayed; request you will give immediate consideration to the best arrangements that can be made for their passage, possibly by reducing the speed of a proportion of B.N. and B.S. Convoys to 7 knots. A case in point is AGHIOS GEORGIOS now Port Said which ship is required South as soon as possible.
(D.T.D. 1415/28 to C. in C. E.I.).

Convoy A.S.13.

Arrived.
(N.O.I.C.Port Said 1636/28 to Admty).

China.

OSCAR GORTHEN. Raider Report.

Swedish ship OSCAR GORTHEN broadcast by W/T that she had sighted armed raider painted black with prize in company in approximate position 16° N. 147° E. at 0300 G.M.T. 27/1.
(C.O.I.S. Far East 04243/28 to Admty etc).
(Position near Ladronne Islands).

Please interview Swedish ship OSCAR GORTHEN on arrival and ascertain course and descriptive details of Raider and prizes she is believed to have sighted.
(D.D.I.O. 1916/28 to Consul General Honolulu).

/Indo.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China. (cont).

Indo-China Trade. Your 1144/22. Admiral Decoux has informed me through Consul General Singapore that he has no objection to proposed substitution so long as three (corrupt group) Norwegian ships are not available.
(C. in C. China, 0529z/28 to Admty).

Shipbuilding. Capacity on China station for construction of M/S and A/S vessels is not yet being fully employed. Deciding factor is provision of engines and equipment by Adty arrangement. If there is any prospect of larger and more rapid supply of these items recommend building of further hulls locally be authorised.
(C. in C. China 0933/28 to Admty).

PIPINA. Your 0415Z/25. Greek Committee authorise PIPINA proceed Balik Papan. They are investigating further commitments.
(D. of S.T. 2141/28 to N.O.I.C. HongKong).

America & West Indies.

Enemy Unit. D.F. at 0327/28 45.30 N. 38° W. (D.D.I.O. 0817/20) See HOME COMMANDS, Enemy Intelligence.

CARADOC.
TAMERLANE. My 1641/27. Estimate CARADOC can remain with TAMERLANE until 035° W.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1031/28 to C. in C. S.A).

COMORIN. Request reply to my 1242/25 (Re N.A.S. 1756/23, on leaving Trinidad COMORIN will be routed through 9N., 51 W. signal further route). Route given by F.O.C. 3rd S.S. in his 1937/24 is cancelled.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1032/28 to C. in C. S.A).

PRINCE ROBERT.
AWATEA. N.A. N.B.'s 0532z/27 and your 1831/26 PRINCE ROBERT can be made available for escort of AWATEA from Suva to Vancouver leaving Suva (date.) If you concur request you will make necessary arrangements.
It is not desired to make any further commitments for PRINCE ROBERT at this time.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1033/28 to C. in C. A.W.I).

/MALOJA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

MALOJA.
B.H.X. 106.

Departure B.H.X. 106. Ocean Escort MALOJA returning Halifax through 044° 40'N. 60° 00'W.
(C. I/C Bermuda 1203/28).

RAMILLIES.
H.X. 106.

Intend sailing RAMILLIES as ocean escort for H.X. (Group omitted Should be H.X. 106). leaving convoy in vicinity 27° W. returning to Halifax. (R.A. 3 B.S. 1545/28 to Admty).

LAURENT MEEUS aground.

Belgian ship LAURENT MEEUS aground entrance to Kingston Harbour. Expect to refloat after discharging part of cargo.
(N.O.I.C. Kingston 1751/28 to Admty).

Australia.

WESTRALIA.
ADELAIDE.

WESTRALIA escorting ZEALANDIA departed Brisbane 27/1 for Thursday Island and Darwin.
ADELAIDE arrived Brisbane 27/1.
(A.C.N.B. 1215/28 to Admty etc).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LIVORNO.
PROCIDA.

Consul Valencia reports 27/1 LIVORNO expected to leave Castellon tonight. PROCIDA expected to leave Burriana tomorrow night both for Marseilles. (F.O.C.N.A. 0523/28 to Admty etc).

706 = WADAI.
265 = HAMBURG.

706 (?sailing) and 265arrived Rabaul 0025 2/28. (A.C.N.B. 09452/28 to Admty).

ERNA. O.
PLUS.

My 1535/27. ERNA O is reported to be beached at Marin. PLUS is now expected to sail in her place (B.2). (Vigo 1105/28 to D.N.I).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Possibility of interception by French. (C. in C. S.A. 1349/28). See South Atlantic

Ascension reports departure 0900/28 DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON escorting MENDOZA. (S.O.I. Freetown 1612N/28 to Admty I.O.S.).

Request following information regarding policy to be followed in regard to MENDOZA may be given as early as possible. (A). Will prize proceeding be instituted in respect of ship and/or cargo? (B) Will passengers and/or crew be repatriated under similar arrangements to those in the cases of CUBA and INDOCHINOIS?If so it is desirable that action be initiated as soon as practicable. (C) If ship is seized will crew be sent? (C. in C. S.A. 2217/28 to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.1941.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TOSCANIA. — Tanker 5904 tons, reported to have raised steam at Tampico on 25/1 and moved up behind the German ORINOCO (D.S. 5/1).

CARALIS. — 3510 tons, sent out on S.O.S. at 1420/27 in position 34.30N. 11.50 E. and subsequently made her position off Tripoli at 0300/28. (Possibly hit by bomb in British air attack - see Mediterranean) (D.S. 511).

CAPO VADO)
CATALANI)
VULCANIA.) — Lloyds reports from Split of Lifebuoys recovered. (D.S. 511).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

28.1.194.
Tuesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN. (contd.).

Submarines Attacked.

1825. One submarine submerged bearing 280 degs. Distance one mile course unknown. Position 282° Kelso 197. (KINGSTON ONYX 1825/28 to Scapa W/T).

Had indefinite contact from 1825 for five minutes (position). (KINGSTON ONYX 1900/28 to S.O. Trawlers Northern Patrol).

Have attacked contact in position 325° Dunnet Head 13.6. SOMALI continue with WAR PINDARI NAPIER continue search. (Capt D.7 2220/28 to A.C.O.S).

D7 repeated A.C.O.S. SOMALI from R.A.(d) your 2220/28. This is a known no submarine. (R.A.D. H.F. 2355/28 to Capt D.7 SOMALI).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Shipping

The Admiralty have decided not to revert at present to 15 knots as the lower limit of speed for independently routed ships. (See 19/1)

It is under consideration to route as many convoys as possible in and out of the N.W. Approaches by a northern route in order to avoid enemy air attack.

Enemy aircraft are reluctant to attack convoys in the N.W. Approaches but stragglers especially when east of 20° W court disaster. Kites are to be flown by day and A/A armament is to be kept continuously manned when east of 20° W.

Search for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

The C. in C., H.F. is still at sea, Two more destroyers returned to Scapa this morning. The patrol by Sunderland was cancelled, none being available. Additional patrols to the enemy coast were, however, flown today.

Sweep for 6 M.V's.

KASHMIR and KIPLING returned to Plymouth this morning without having sighted the 6 merchant vessels sighted by aircraft yesterday off Ushant.

U-Boat attack on Convoy S.C. 19

Convoy S.C. 19 was attacked last night and early this morning by U-Boat in the N.W. Approaches today. SS URLA, RUSHPOOL WEST WALES, AIKATERINI and tanker W.B. WALKER were torpedoed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Owing to bad weather all offensive operations by Coastal Command last night were cancelled. Routine patrols today were curtailed and none were flown in the southern North Sea or Channel. Eleven Hudsons patrolled the North Sea to the Coast of Norway, but sighted nothing of importance.

Attempts to reconnoitre Brest were frustrated by low cloud and poor visibility.

No offensive operations were carried out by Bomber Command last night or today, on account of bad weather.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft took place last night off the south west coast and in the Bristol Channel.

Milford Haven was opened today subject to local restrictions, except to I.C.E. ships.

Cardiff, Barry and Swansea were reopened this evening, but no ships are to proceed eastward of Cardiff. Newport and Avonmouth are still closed.

SS WESTMORLAND (9496 tons) was mined at 1247 off Liverpool and is to be brought into harbour tomorrow. Dutch Balloon barrage vessel SATURNUS was mined off Liverpool late this afternoon, though her fate is uncertain owing to low visibility.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

NEPTUNE returned to Gibraltar this morning from covering Convoy O.G. 52 since p.m./27 with SHEFFIELD, who is to return tomorrow.

South Atlantic

Raider reports

At 2100 G.M.T. today SS EURYLOCHUS reported that she was being gunned by a warship raider in position 8° 15' W., 25° 14' W. There is some evidence that the ADMIRAL SCHEER and an armed merchant raider were the enemy ships concerned. SS AFRIC STAR also reported being gunned by an armed merchant raider, probably in the same position. DEVONSHIRE was despatched to search, and NORFOLK, who was to R.V. with DEVONSHIRE and DRAGON escorting MENDOZA, was ordered to cover the Freetown-Cape Verde trade route. C. in C., S.A. later reported that the position of SS EURYCLOCHUS appeared improbable.

Recent W/T traffic has indicated enemy vessels in an area S.W. of the Cape-Freetown Trade route, although nothing has been discovered and there are no other indications of U-Boat or raider activity in the area. C. in C., S.A. considers this may be preliminary to some activity or in furtherance of some plan.

Convoy

W.S. 5b left Freetown this morning for Capetown, escorted by EMERALD, AUSTRALIA, and small craft.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

An enemy merchant vessel while approaching Tripoli in company with 3 others, this morning was seen to strike what appeared to be a mine about ½ mile off the harbour There was a large explosion, and the ship when last seen was down by the bows and surrounded by small craft from the harbour.

Swordfish at Heraklion aerodrome (Crete) were bombed today by 24 enemy aircraft.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

New HUMT Destroyers. Allocations.

Your 1120/24 and my 1637/26/12/40. Hunts completing shortly are allocated as follows:-
2. To Rosyth Escort Force: QUANTOCK, WHADDON, BROCKLESBY and LIDDESDALE.
3. Adty. 1506/19/12/40. AVONVALE, FARNDALE, ERIDGE and HEYTHROP will proceed to the Red Sea when worked up.
(D.O.D. H. 1058/29).

4 Sloops to join C.in C. W.A.

Adty's 1058/28.
LONDONDERRY, ECHET, FLEETWOOD, WESTON.
Anticipate ships will sail as follows:- detailed.
LONDONDERRY. P.M./29.
ECHET. A.M./30.
FLEETWOOD and WESTON. A.M./31.
(C.in C.Rosyth1100/29 to Adty.).

Four sloops will join my command shortly to afford A/A protection to southern routed mercantile convoys. N.O.I.C. Londonderry to report whether they can be based at Londonderry. Not more than two sloops will be in harbour together.
(C.in C. W.A. 1327/29).

Your 1327/29. These sloops can be accepted with some difficulty at Londonderry now. When new berthing is completed about end of March there will be no difficulty in berthing them.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1831/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

MACKAY.

Urgently required as Leader of 16th Flotilla, the need being even greater in view transfer of 4 destroyers from Nore Command to Rosyth.
(C.in C. Nore 1106/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

New Recognition Procedure.

Attention is called to Admiralty M.024063/40 dated 1st January 1941. New recognition procedure will come into force on 1st February. (D.S.D. 1818/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/29 (D.C. 1200/29) At 2330/29 (D.C. 2330/29).

PRINCE OF WALES. My p.c. and s. at 0900/29 056° 45' N. 070° 10' W., 015°, 15 knots. (PRINCE OF WALES 0030/29 to JACKAL).

Sailed from Scapa at 0900/29 NIGERIA, IMPLACABLE, MAORI, NIZAM to R/V with PRINCE OF WALES (A.C.O.S. 0907/29).

My 1231/28. Delete JACKAL from outward escort. She may be in time to meet FURIOUS. (C.in C. W.A. 1705/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

One TOWN Destroyer for Torpedo Trials at Weymouth. Request you will detail one Town Class Destroyer to carry out torpedo discharge trials at Weymouth.
2. Ship detailed should be available at Devonport 3/2 for modifications and will sail for Weymouth about 8/2 for one week. (D.O.D.H. 1841/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Northern Patrol. Trawler lines tonight. 6 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1421/29).

CALIFORNIA. Clyde 1000/31 (route, speed) to Reykjavik and N.P.41. Asking C.in C. H.F. to arrange escort from North End Minch to 15° W. if available. (F.O.C.H.F. 1536/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for SCARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Scapa arrival 2315/20 C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM, RODNEY, and MAURITIUS. 0010/29 BEAGLE and BRILLIANT. (A.C.O.S. 0053/29).

Your 1430 just received. Request R/V for rejoining. My p.c. and s. are 065° N. 013° 20' W., 173°, 20 knots. (AURORA, 0245/29 to C.in C. H.F.).

Scapa arrivals 0800 PIORUN and KEPPEL. (A.C.O.S. 0007/29).

My 0.517/26.
Denmark Straits patrolled 1140 to 1430/28 between 66° and 67° N. and 2230 and 28 W. Nothing significant seen. Fog extended 60 miles radius from 6610 N. 25.50 W. (C.O.C. Iceland 1027/29 to War Office).

Your 1047/27. Intend to sail EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM, MAURITIUS, RODNEY at 1130/30. R.A.(D) H.F. is requested to detail screen for RODNEY. (C.S. 18 1816/29 to C.in C. H.F.).

Cancel my 1816/29.
(18 C.S. 2149/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

L.27. Is to be withdrawn from patrol tonight. (F.O.S. 0050/29.).

To leave patrol at 0001/30 and proceed to Dartmouth Sanctuary passing through 50° N. 05° W. R/V with escort at 0830/30 in 110° Start Point 3 miles and proceed to Dartmouth. (S.S. 1610/29).

TAKU
TALISMAN
SNAPPER
TAKU is to leave patrol after dark/31 with LA CAPRICIEUSE and TALISMAN in 300° Trevose Head 4 miles at 0830/2.
SNAPPER estimated off Bishop Rock 0800/31 through 047° 48' N. 008° 39' W. to Bay of Biscay North zone.
(S.S. 1023/29).

SNAPPER
TUNA
0845 sailed LA CAPRICIEUSE escorting SNAPPER and TUNA in accordance with S.S's 1129/27. E.T.A. Bishops Rock 0800/31.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1036/29).

Positions. At 0800/30 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1718/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2300/28 para 1. (Patrol by one Sunderland A/C) Patrol is cancelled as aircraft now unserviceable.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0632/29).

Additional patrols being flown today.
S.A. 1 A. S.A. 2. S.A. 3.
All extended to Enemy coast.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0048/29).

Denmark Straits Patrol.

C.O.C. Iceland 1027/29 See Operations.

Patrol S.T. 2 at 0330 and patrol S.T. 1 at 1400 for 30/1.
(N.A.S. Stornoway 1730/29 to A.C.O.S.).

801 Squadron.

801 Squadron of six Skuas now at St. Merryn and six more en route are to be placed under the orders of Coastal Command. (5th S.L. 1351/29 to R.A.N.A.S.).

Newcastle Defences Routeing of A/C to avoid.

A.145 29/1 reference my A.207 of 8/10. May Admiralty be asked to confirm if this is necessary. Understand local Naval Authorities support a request for special freedom of defence action to be renewed in Tyneside in view of important target now in that area.
(H.Q.F.C. 2155/29 to Air Ministry).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

PANDION
BARON RENFREW

Request you call ST. OLAVES to assist BARON RENFREW and PANDION in 55° 50' N. 10° 15' W. at 1330/28. Tug TENACITY and A/S escort already despatched.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1227/29 to A.C.O.S.).

Not yet located PANDION(?) (?) searching with escort. (TENACITY 1230/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Approx. position 055° 23' N. 006° 56' W. course and speed 210° 3 knots. Require escort to nearest port. Master dead, mate seriously injured.
(PANDION 1235/29).

F.O.I.C. Belfast is providing escort and PANDION is being advised to proceed to Belfast if seaworthy.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1635/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Your 1640/29. Have anchored Lough Swilly to put mate ashore.
(PANDION 2110/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

At 2035 sailed Rescue Tug ST. OLAVES from Aultbea to assist BARON RENFREW.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2142/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

BELGIA
(bombed 20/1).

Fire out ship grounded near High Water mark and secured by anchors. Further survey and report tomorrow.
(Salvage Officer, Harwich 1700/29).

Types of Enemy A/C to be met West of Ireland.

X.704. 20/1. Your 2239/25 and 1147/26. Request all concerned be informed that at present only four types of four-engined aircraft are likely to be sighted West of Ireland.

/ They are (a) ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

Types of Enemy A/C to be met West of Ireland. (Contd.)

They are (a) German Focke Wulf Condor which is a landplane (b) British Sunderland which is a flying boat (c) American type Liberator which is a landplane (d) American type Boeing 17 which is a landplane. Silhouettes of first three have already been distributed. Silhouettes of Boeing 17 now being circulated. Request characteristics of these types to be brought to notice of all concerned so that quick visual recognition independent of markings can be achieved. (Air Ministry 1845/29).

Mining.

Sweep by 5th M/S F.

Admiralty 2116/28. Commencement of my 2237/16/1 and 1105/23/1 postponed by weather to 0800/29. Anticipate that sweep detailed in para. (1) of my 2237/16/1 will be completed by 1600/29.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0017/28 to A.C.O.S.).

Your 0017/29.
Four ships of 1st M/S Flotilla and three trawlers of 44th Group carrying out similar sweeps from Duncansby Head to Westward of dividing line A Z 787.
(A.C.O.S. 1126/29 to C.in C. Rosyth).

B.3.80.

Weather permitting three Blenheims from 16 Group on 388 kcs. will escort you from Humber L.V. at 1600/30 until dark.
C.in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange air protection on 31/1.
(C.in C. Nore 1030/29 to TEVIOT BANK, QUORN).

INTREPID
IMPULSIVE.

Arrived Scapa 1100.
(A.C.O.S. 1203/29).

/ Milford Haven. ....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.).

Milford Haven.	Port is open subject to local restrictions except to I.C.E. ships. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1220/29).
TAVELBERG.	Request immediate report of the circumstances in which TAVELBERG was mined. Was ship in swept water and if so when was it swept. (A.C.N.S. T. 1244/29 to F.O.I.C. Cardiff).
	Your 1244/29. Circumstances of Mining. (Master did not comply with his orders to swing in swept water). (N.O.I.C. Cardiff 1252/29 to Adty.).
Liverpool.	Your 7569/40 and my 1024/27. 3 mines detonated 0250/26. Particulars. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1704/29).
Iceland.	Mine discovered ashore in 064° 50' N. 013° 37' W. A.M./26. Painted black and almost certain British. Several unconfirmed reports of mines drifting ashore on North coast of Iceland between Cape Horn and Akureyri. Search proceeding to confirm reports and obtain further details. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1745/29).
Convoy Sweep.	QUEEN OF THANET will be carrying out Convoy Sweep. 31/1. (Capt. M/S Granton 1745/29).
Iceland/Faroes Barrier.	Adty's 1749/28. R.A. N.L. requested to signal details of next lay. (i) F.O.C. 18 C.S. is to detail one ship of 18th C.S. to act as close escort to first M/L.S. and is to cover operations with RODNEY and two cruisers. (ii) Para. (iii) of my 1947/27 is cancelled. (C.in C. H.F. 1828/29 to R.A.N.L.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Bristol Channel. Ships from Cardiff, Barry, and Swansea may sail to the westward, and ships from westward may now enter these ports. No ships are to proceed to the eastward of Cardiff. No ships may sail from Newport or Avonmouth.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1043/29).

WESTMORLAND. (British 9496 tons). Mined at 1247 in 200° Bar L.V. 3 miles. Ship will be brought into harbour tomorrow.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2136/29).

Enemy Intelligence.

Bearing of unknown enemy units at 1612/29 was as follows.
(D.D.I.C. 1604/29).

Norway, Intelligence. S.S. TARONGA ⛴ shipments etc. Following concerns Norway.
(a) (? 1703)/21. Now reported TARONGA having L.A. and A.A. guns mounted at Akers. She also has unusually heavy armour cables for degaussing. B.2.
(c) Kirkenes on 10/1 first consignment 3000 tons.
(N.A. Stockholm 1801/29 to D.N.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

W.N.76. Route P. E.T.A. Dunnet Head 1000/29 speed 7 knots. (A.C.O.S. 0329/29 to JASON).

O.B.C.279. Sailed 0800/29/1.
Escort H.M.T. KING SOL. 5 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban 0930/29).

O.B.279. STANMORE Sailed 0100/29 to join O.B.279 at rendezvous D.2 British STANMORE for Capetown.

F.S.97. 22 Ships. (F.O.I.C. 1001/29).

W.N.80. Request following Norwegian Whalers speed 14 knots may be included in Convoy W.N.80.
O.O.S.4 Destination Gateshead.
K.O.S.7 " Jarrow.
K.O.S.8 " Jarrow.
K.O.S.9 " South Shields.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1012/29).

F.N.95. My 2242/28.
When WOOLSTON and VIVIEN join F.N.95 HOLDERNESS and PYTCHLEY are to part company and proceed to Rosyth independently adjusting speed to arrive destination a.m./30.
(C.in C. Nore 1052/29 to HOLDERNESS PYTCHLEY.).

F.S.96
F.N.97
F.S.99 My 1339/24, 1746/27, 1315/28 and 1513/28.
Cancel F.S. 96 and F.N. 97, in consequence, Escorts for F.S.99 sailing at 1730 from Methil are WOLFHOUND, WESTMINSTER. Additional escort for F.S.99 from 20 C buoy PYTCHLEY.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1106/29, to Admty. etc.).

SHOAL FISHER
DROMUS Commodore WESTERN ISLES is requested to sail DIANELLA to Oban when ready.
DIANELLA is to escort SHOAL FISHER from Oban to R/V with tanker DROMUS from Holyhead at R/V to be arranged by N.O.I.C. Oban.
DIANELLA is then to escort both ships to arrive 3300 Hartland Point 5 miles at 1230.
Relief escort will be at Hartland Point R/V to bring SHOAL FISHER and DROMUS to Plymouth.
DIANELLA to proceed to Londonderry on relief.
(C.in C. W.A. 1113/29, to Cdre, WESTERN ISLES).

/ F.N.95. ....

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.93. Sailed 0944/29, 18 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1136/29).

C.W.24. Sailed 1130/29 9 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1140/29).

F.S.96. Convoy F.S.96 reported anchored East of Nore L.V. 28 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1151/29).

3 M.V's. Request you sail 3 M/V's Tug KENIA, with Salvage Vessel PRUYA in tow, for Harwich as early as practicable A.M./30.
F.O.I.C. Harwich requested to detail a destroyer from to-night's patrol to proceed down Barry Deep on completion of patrol until KENIA is met, returning to Harwich as escort. Fighter protection asked for.
Code word Screw.
(C.in C. Nore 1510/29 to N.C.S.O. Southend etc.).

Your 1510, BOLINGTON detailed.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1634/29 to C.in C. Nore).

Rosyth Area. Convoy F.N.93 due May Island 1730.
Convoy F.N.94 20 C Buoy 2100.
Convoy F.S.95 sails 1730 adjusting speed to arrive 20 C Buoy 1900/30.
Convoy W.N.75 Part 1. Arbroath 2000.
Convoy W.N.75 Part 2. Kinnaird Head 2200.
Convoy W.N.76 Kinnaird Head 2000.
Convoy E.N.64 sails 0800/30.
FITCHLEY to join F.S.95 when met.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1522/29).

11 M.V. C.W.24. Portsmouth night movements.
Convoys. 11 merchant vessels escorted by 2 A/S Trawlers ST. CATHAN and CAPE COMORIN from Dartmouth arrive Nab 0030/30, C.W.24 approaching from eastward.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1553/29).

TRITON TURQUOISE E.N.93. T.B.V. TRITON escorted by A/S trawler TURQUOISE sails from Harwich at 1000/30/1 proceeding at 10 knots (route) arriving B 4 buoy at 1315 working on it for half an hour, thence to AMETHYST wreck buoy, arriving 1415 working on it for one hour arriving Nore L.V. at 1600, thence anchoring at Southend at 1730. Request fighter protection and that TURQUOISE may be sailed with F.N.93 for Harwich on 31/1.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1555/29, to C.in C. Nore.).

/ E.N.64. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.64.	(A) 0500/30th. (B) H.M.T's LADY ROSEMARY, SARABANDE, MACBETH. Additional escort FOWEY. (C) 28 ships. (E) Code Words:- E.N. 64 PADDLE. E.N.L. Portion. MONITOR. E.N.O. Portion. MIXTURE. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1603/29).
W.N.76.	Arrived 1612/29/1. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1614/29).
F.N.95.	Harwich 29/1 departure SOUTHDOWN at 1634 to join F.N.95. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1647/29).
KATLA	KATLA (Icelandic). Sailed Halifax 23/1 to Reykjavik via Louisburg. (Route). Due Reykjavik 5/2. (D.T.D. 1708/29 to V.A.N.F.).
10 M.V's	UNION sailed 10 M V/S including three tankers 2 escorts. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 1721/29 to C.in C. Portsmouth).
W.N.76.	Am in company with STELLA CAPELLA FANDANGO, Commodore of convoy W.N.76 and three ships. Three more ships are about 15 miles ahead. Presume W.N. - rear portion is astern. In view of bad weather and rather obscure situation request lights all night. (JASON 1730/29 to C.in C. Rosyth).
E.N.93.	Tyne ships arrived. Non-arrival Wm.H.DANIELS. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1733/29).
F.N.93.	Arrived 1730/29. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1800/29).
K.C.	Convoy K.C. (a) 1300/30/1 (b) VISCOUNT VANQUISHER (c) Five ships for Clyde (d) Cape Wrath 1900/30 (e) Code word K.C.SOLLO. Speed 12 knots. (N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1815/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
W.N.77 (O)	1430/30 escort H.M. Trawler NOTTS COUNTY, 8 ships routed through Sound of Mull to rendezvous with MUSTER off Ardnamurchan Point at 2330/30. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1821/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ W.N.77. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.77. 1930/29. H.M. Trawlers ULLSWATER and FAYNTER escorting 11 ships including 2 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1935/29).

F.N.93. Rosyth 29/1. Arrivals. VANITY and VERSATILE with F.N.93 - Includes CELIA on passage Humber-Tobermory. Departures.

F.S.99. WOLFHOUND and WESTMINSTER with F.S.99. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2005/29).

F.S.99. Sailed 1800/29 approx. 32 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2011/29).

F.S.96. Arrived. Non arrivals (list) (N.C.S.O. Thames, 2036/29).

W.N. scattered. My 1522/29. (Fleet Units estimated off Rose Head 0200/30). W.N. Convoys very scattered owing to weather and positions uncertain. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2325/29 to PRINCE OF WALES.).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X.105. PORPOISE. PORPOISE is to part company with H.X.105 on reaching lat. 60° N. or at Long. 25° W. whichever is reached the earlier and proceed through positions 59° N. 23° W. 59° N. 11° W. and thence to r.v. with escort provided by C.in C. W.A. in position 270° Barra Head 10 miles. PORPOISE is to proceed submerged by day when East of 25° W. and is to adjust speed to arrive at r.v. at daylight. (F.O.(S), 1256/29, to PORPOISE).

H.X.102. Arrived. (List). (N.C.S.O. 1743/29).

/ H.H.X. 104. ....

MOST SECRET.

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Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

B.H.X.104.	Tankers INVERILEN, DAVILA and RANELLA due at Milford Haven in Convoy B.H.X.104 are required to proceed as follows to discharge. INVERILEN and RANELLA to Southampton. DAVILA to Portsmouth. It is requested you will sail these ships accordingly, making use of dark hours. A delay of up to three days could be accepted if by so doing escort could be made available. (B.O.D.(R) 1633/29 to C.in C. W.A.).
H.X.104.	50 hours late approximately. (RAJPUTANA to C.in C. W.A. 2047/29.).
S.C.19.	Attacked by U-boat. (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN)
Routes, N.W. Approaches.	Under consideration to route as many convoys as possible in and out of the N.W. Approaches by a Northern route to avoid enemy air attack. It will, however, be necessary to continue to route OG and HG (including SLS) convoys further South because of the low endurance of these ships. 2. Steps are being taken to provide the Southerly convoys with a more adequate A/A escort and ships are being given additional light A/A armament and personnel. 3. Experience shows that the Focke Wolff aircraft are reluctant to attack the convoys and, provided the merchant ships are instantly ready to open fire and with the strengthened A/A escort, they should be given a hot reception if they do so. 4. Stragglers from these convoys are however being sunk. It cannot be too forcibly impressed on Masters:- (a) That to straggle especially when East of 20° W. is to court disaster. (b) That an aircraft in sight must be assumed to be hostile until events prove it to be otherwise. All ships' work should cease when East of 20° W. in order that A/A armament can be kept continuously manned. (c) That kites are to be flown by day.

/ 5. ...

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

Routes, N.W. Approaches. (contd.)

S. A.N.C.S.O. who allows a ship to sail in one of these convoys without impressing the above facts on the Master may well be contributing to the loss of ships and lives. Most of our losses by air attack in the N.W. Approaches would not have occurred if the above precautions had been taken. (D.T.D. 1713/29, to N.C.S.O's).

Independent Ships.

Your 1321/19. The situation as regards independent ships is being carefully watched, but it is not intended to revert to 15 knots as the lower limit of speed for these ships at present. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1919/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Ocean Route Positions.

C.in C. S.A. 1841/25 to Admiralty only and N.S.H.Q. Ottawa's 1138/25 repeated C.in C. A. and W.I.
Cancel my 1831/26/9 and 1640/23/1.
All positions on ocean routes are to be reported accurately in degrees and minutes.
Positions on ocean routes of vessels routed direct to U.K. are to be reported as far as 7° W.
Attention is directed to my 1722/11/11. (D.T.D. 1933/29 to A.I.C.48).

Military Convoys.

Force Z.

My 1231/28. R/V. Q should read 035° 40' N. 022° 40' W. 1049/29.

My 1815/27. C.in C. W.A. 1231/28. For ASSINIBOINE read BRESSA. OTTAWA will be S.O. of destroyers detailed from Clyde escort Force. (Capt. D. Greenock 1736/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ PRITORIA CASTLE ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys. (Contd.)

PRETORIA CASTLE.

To avoid U/B in 056° N. 015° 25' W. alter course forthwith to pass through 058° 30' N. 015° 43' W. then 058° 30' N. 011° W. then 055° 35' N. 007° W. then as in my 1537/27.
(C.in C. W.A. 1229/29 to PRETORIA CASTLE).

W.S.6.

Adty. 2310/21. The following M.T. ships are expected to complete loading about 1/2.
At Mersey MANCHESTER CITIZEN
LOGICIAN
DALESMAN
At Barrow CITY OF PITTSBURG
2. It is undesirable to hold these ships fully loaded at these ports and when ready they should be sailed to the Clyde whence they will sail with Convoy W.S.6. If special escort is not available they should proceed in an O.S. convoy.
(D.O.D.(H) 1858/29).

CITY OF MARSEILLES.

Speed 12½ knots, should sail from Liverpool with W.S.6 until A/S Escort parts company when she should proceed independently.
2. Adty. will provide route to Capetown.
(A.C.N.S.T. 2110/29).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.1.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ALHENA.

Cancel my 0047/20 and 1442/28. Proceed forthwith to assist ALHENA.
Ashore in 54° 24' 30" N. 5° 24' W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0101/29 to SCHELDE).

Ships structure badly damaged Capt. thinks ship will sink if refloated. Nothing tug can do. Instructions requested. (SCHELDE 1040/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Port Patrick radio reports Number 142 holds and engine room flooded. Ship cannot be towed off before discharging cargo. Passengers and Chinese landed by coastal lifeboat Stofkoper.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1327/29.).

MACGREGOR LAIRD

Your 2030/28. Proceed MACGREGOR LAIRD last position 054° 03' N. 024° 12' W. at 2000/27 drifting 135° 1.8 knots. Tug is proceeding.
(C.in C. W.A. 0103/29 to NORTHERN SPRAY).

My 1218/28. ASSURANCE and NORTHERN SPRAY to proceed direct to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0119/29).

WESTCOTT,
BLUEBELL,
SALVONIA.

My 1218/28. Proceed direct to WESTCOTT damaged in collision at 2000/28. in 55° 30' N. 12° 15' W. proceeding North Channel at approx. 4 knots. BLUEBELL in company also damaged.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0119/29 to RESTIVE).

Proceed forthwith to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0120/29 to SALVONIA).

Have steering gear defects. Proceeding into Loch Indal to effect repairs. Will leave Loch Indal to intercept WESTCOTT daybreak tomorrow.
(SALVONIA 0800/29).

/ My position at ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.1.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

My position at 1000 055° 58' N. 010° 45' W., course 105° making good 5 knots. Boiler priming which may necessitate shutting off steam. Request tug to stand by.
(WESTCOTT 1145/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

Unable to comply with your 0801/29.
Returning to Campbelltown.
(SALVONIA 1325/29 to F.O.I.C. G.)

Am proceeding Londonderry to fuel. BLUEBELL in company. Boiler room bulkhead still holding. (WESTCOTT 2124/29).

Following received from SALVONIA;
Temporary repairs effected will proceed to W.H. WALKER when weather moderates.
1745/29 Ends. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2156/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

EIBERGEN. (Dutch, 4801 tons) Sinking off Sunderland. Grounded. Going in lifeboats.
(Senza W/T. T.O.R. 0640.).

Now berthed in Sunderland Harbour.
No casualties. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 0640/29).

Grounded on Hendon Rock and is holed in No. 3. Boiler Room starboard side. Now berthed alongside Corporation Quay Sunderland. (N.O.I.C. Sunderland 1030/29).

KAPITAN STRATOS. Not yet arrived from Convoy H.G.50.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 1040/29).

FITZROY. Arrived Sheerness in tow Tug KENIA at 1027/29.
(C.in C. Nore 1110/29).

MISTRAL. Defect in (?boiler) lubricating system beyond ships staff to make good has reduced speed to 10 knots. Am returning to Greenock. Expect arrive 0630/30.
(MISTRAL 1140/29 to C.in C. W.A.).

/ PINTADE ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

PINTADE (Balloon Barrage Vessel) Sailed from Sheerness 1210/29 in tow of tug DONIA. (Admy. Sheerness 1231/29).

SANDHILL (British, 586 tons) Your 1040/29. Proceed to assist SANDHILL in Dundrum Bay near Roaring Rock 4 miles South of Newcastle Ireland. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1359/29 to SCHELDE).

BREDA My 0941/23. Anticipate repairs to BREDA will take about three weeks. (S.7. 1622/29 to S.O.D.S.).

SHERWOOD. My 1803/27. Delayed with defects. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1707/29).

KENYA Returning to harbour with engine defects. (KENYA 1715/29 to A.C.W.A.).

KIPLING Cannot sail owing to defects. (C.in C. W.A. 1857/29).

RESTIVE RESTIVE reports at 1930/29: Returning Campbeltown 8 knots. Two bottom end bearings metal run. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2149/29).

DAROGAH. (M/S Trawler). Salvage Officer reports no difficulty anticipated in Salvage. (C.in C. Nore 2212/29).

KIRKLEMOOR F.O.I.C. Glasgow's 1743/29/1. Endurance as follows. (KIRKLEMOOR 2255/29 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

SONTAY — HERMES, ENTERPRISE, escorting Vichy French Ship SONTAY arrived. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 10022/29).

SONTAY, 8917 tons, intercepted 25/1, was bound from Tamatave, Madagascar, to France via French African ports. For personnel on board, see HERMES 1700/30.

Your 1200/26. French ship SONTAY should be sent on to Simonstown. Report urgently total number of troops on board as it is not clear whether invalids reported in your 0808/28 are additional to troops quoted in your 1200/26. Also state number of women, children, and native troops. Signal brief summary of cargo. (D.R.W.D. 2256/29) (H.Q. Force T.)

ESPERANCE repatriations. — Your 1100/27. Repatriation of ESPERANCE crew has been linked with (a) release and transfer to British charter of two Greek ships wrongfully detained at Madagascar and (b) suggested supply of medical stores to Madagascar. Question, which is being taken up between Government of Union of South Africa and Governor of Madagascar, is discussed at length in Colonial Office Tel. No. 86 to Aden, which is being repeated to you. (Head of M. 1616/29 to C.in C.E.I.).

CANADA. — It is understood that French Hospital ship CANADA may have left Toulon for Liverpool on 13/1, routed as in my 1913/28/10/40. (D.O.D.(H) 1950/29 to N.A. Madrid, F.O.C.N.A. etc.).

French Convoy. — Armed trawler L'AJACCIENNE passed Gibraltar westbound at 0935/29 escorting French M.V's CONGO, 5202 tons, ERIDAN, 9928 tons, and OUED SEBOU II, 2448 tons. (D.O.H. 30/1).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

NEPTUNE — Gibraltar 29/1, 0845, arrival NEPTUNE. (S.O.I., Gib., 0029/29).

ARK ROYAL. — My 1903/27. Request two extra screening destroyers r.v. with me at 1330 in position 036° 00' N. 004° 44' W. (ARK ROYAL 0959/29 to S.O. Force H).

Sunderlands. — S. 245 Jan. 29. Ref. my S.244 Jan.28, ref. Admiralty 2321/27 and 2035/28. V.A.C.N.A. requests Sunderlands P 9603 and P 9605 be routed as follows. V.A.C.N.A. requests approval to retain these two aircraft at Gibraltar until position regarding Battle Cruisers clarifies. (200 Group, 1130/29, to H.Q.C.C.).

DUNEDIN)
VELOX)
VIDETTE)
KENYA)
SOBIESKI)
GERANIUM)
JONQUIL)

Route and times of arrival at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 1208/29, 1232/29). See Operations Volume.

Force H. — My 1552/28. (Departure of RENOWN etc. in accordance with S.O. Force H's 1141/28) Ships have now returned. (S.O.I., Gib., 1630/29, to Admty. etc.).

Air Report. — Daily Summary Operations. One routine A.S. patrol. Two surface Reccos. west. One convoy escort from west. Area covered 5° west to 10° 20' west. (200 Group, 1740/29).

FURIOUS
NEPTUNE

Gibraltar departure 1920/29. FURIOUS NEPTUNE. FURIOUS expected time of arrival Clyde 0800/4 zone - one. (S.O.I., Gib., 1932/29).

/ C.in C. W.A. 1239/28 ...

MOST SECRET.

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29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

C.in C. Western Approaches 1239/28
NEPTUNE R.T.A. Scapa 1200/4 for fuel.
Request onward routeing instructions from position (b) to Scapa be signalled to NEPTUNE.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1034/29 to C.in C. H.F.).

DUNEDIN

C.in C. S.A's 1005H/28. My position at 2000Z was 017° 46' N. 019° 49' W.
At present speed of advance 9 knots E.T.A. at R.V. in position (1) is 1400Z - 1, 3/2. (DUNEDIN, 2044Z/29).

South Atlantic.

Transport of S. African Troops.

Your 1121/27. Whole question is still under examination by departments concerned. Other considerations in addition to provision of shipping are involved. Further communication will be sent as soon as possible.
(D.S.T. 0145/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

BRITISH UNION (sunk 18/1).

BRITISH UNION was sunk by Armed Merchant Raider at 2300 G.M.T. 18/1 in 026° 34' N. 030° 58' W. Ship damaged by gun fire, sunk by torpedo.
Raider only revealed by own searchlight. Seemed to be ship of passenger type like modified RULEBERLAND or ROMA but about 10000 tons. Description.
(C.in C. S.A., 0188H/29, to S.A. Station).

Enemy Unit.

By D/F at 2217 and 2257/28 on 8470 kcs. unknown enemy unit was within 200 miles of position 28° 30' S. 15° W.
(Bearings). (D.D.I.C. 0314/29 to F.O.C. N.A., C.in C. S.A. etc.).

/ TRIBESMAN ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

TRIBESMAN.	Your 1159/2 (re overdue shipping, enquiring if Freetown has any trace of TRIBESMAN). Lloyds Index of 1/1 states TRIBESMAN sailed Mossel Bay 18/12 Presumably this is not correct. (S.O.I. Freetown, 0948/29, to S.O.I., Capetown).
SHROPSHIRE CERES W.S.5A.	Durban departure SHROPSHIRE and CERES escorting convoy W.S. five A. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1000Z/29, to Admty. etc.).
TAMERLANE.	Route to Takoradi (C.in C. S.A., 1153N/29 to CARADOC) See Operations Volume. C.in C. S.A. 1125/28 and C.in C. A.W.I. 1031/28. Re continuous escort of TAMERLANE. (A.C.N.S.(F) 1326/29.) See Operations Volume.
W.S.5B.	Departure 0830/29 AUSTRALIA and EMERALD escorting Convoy W.S.5B with FAULKNOR FORESTER MILFORD CYCLAMEN and CLEMATIS as local escort until 1800/1. C.in C. S.A. 1953/27 refers. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1101N/29, to Admty. etc.)
Analysis of Enemy W/T Reports.	Since 29/12 on 9 occasions D/F bearings have indicated positions of enemy U boats, auxiliaries or raiders S.W. of the Cape Freetown trade route but nothing has been discovered and there has been no other indication of raider or U boat activity in this area, except possibly TRIBESMAN. 4. I feel this may be preliminary to some activity or in furtherance of some plan. (C.in C. S.A., 1105N/29, to Admty.).
PETTIER	Overdue Shipping. My 1003/28 PETTER arrived Capetown. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1111GB/29).
BARNEVELD WANGI WANGI	Overdue shipping. BARNEVELD from Freetown, WANGI WANGI from U.K. both due Capetown 26/1 not arrived. (S.O.I. Capetown 1117B/29).

/ Minesweepers. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Minesweepers. Your 1113/27. Director Seaward Defence informs me only four coal burning Trawlers which are local Minesweeping Flotilla at present at Durban. These quite unsuitable for proposed service.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1130Z/29 to C.in C.S.A.)

MANILA MARU Re German escaped from internment camp in S. Africa with secret documents, on board Japanese MANILA MARU Capetown 23/1 due Buenos Aires 5/2 (S.O.(I) Capetown 1152/29).

CUMBERLAND. CUMBERLAND waring the flag of R.A. S.A.D. "arrived" Buenos Aires 1730Z/27 and leaves for patrol 1730Z/29.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1204Z/29 to Admty. C.in C.S.A.).

Whale Catchers to maintain W/T silence. My 1931/19. Report date of passing, also repeat to SVEND FOYN and SOUTHERN EMPRESS, as SVEND FOYN made her routine commercial report on 25/1.
(D.T.D. 1337/29 to N.O.I.C. Falklands.).

COMORIN. Your 1242/25 and your 1032/28. From 009° 00' N. 051° 00' W. COMORIN should pass through position
(a) Equator 035° 00' W.
(b) 002° 00' N. 027° 30' W.
(c) 004° 30' N. 016° 30' W. thence to Freetown. (Date of arrival).
(C.in C. S.A., 1659/29, to C.in C. A.W.I.)
See also C.in C. America and West Indies 2232/29.

BULOLO
TAMERLANE To R.V. with CARADOC (C.in C. S.A. 1723Z/29 to BULOLO) See Operations Volume.
CARADOC, suggested fuelling at Freetown
(C.in C. S.A. 1733Z/29 to C.in C. A.W.I.)
See Operations Volume.
Orders to CARADOC - See America and West Indies.

/ Enemy Unit. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 29.1.1941. Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Enemy Unit.	D/F bearings indicate possible enemy surface units in approx. positions 001° N. 017° W. or 020° S. 011° W. at 1838/28. (C.in C. S.A., 1703N/29 to S.A. Station).
W.S.5B.	Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1801/29, to Admty. etc.) Also 1957Z/29 with route amended 1950/29. See Operations Volume.
LAFONIA	Have you any news of LAFONIA due Falkland Islands. (D.T.D. 1828/29 to Consul, Montevideo).
Convoy W.S.5B.	D. of S.T's 1934/27. Submit that another Tanker in addition to Tanker BRITISH TRUST is essential to avoid delay to convoy. (N.O.I.C. Durban 2041Z/29, to C.in C. S.A.)
TAMERLANE	Your 1326/29 and my 1733/29. Re A/S escort. (C.in C. S.A., 2117Z/29 to Admty.) (See Operations Volume).
EURYLOCHUS, raider report.	Following has been read. Raider Report. 8. 15 N., 25. 4 W., EURYLOCHUS gunned 2035/25. (Landsend Radio, 2212/29). EURYLOCHUS, British, 5723 tons, ex Convoy O.B.274, to Takoradi from Glasgow. Position about 800' west of Freetown. (D.O.R. 39/1).
Orders to DEVONSHIRE NORFOLK DRAGON	At 2100 G.M.T./29 EURYLOCHUS reported RR RR gunned position 008° 15' N. 025° 14' W. AFRIC STAR QQQQ same probable position. DEVONSHIRE proceed best speed through approximate position 001° S. 022° W. then to northward at convenient speed. NORFOLK proceed best speed to cover Freetown Cape Verde trade route passing through about 010° N. 022° W. DRAGON remain with MENDOZA. (C.in C. S.A., 2319N/29, to NORFOLK DEVONSHIRE).
DELHI.	Renewal of boiler tubes - date of arrival Mauritius. (C.in C. S.A. 2359/29) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

German Aircraft at Sicily. — Your 1035/28. Please specify what you have in mind. (1 S.I., 0027/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Greek Mission. — Chiefs of Staff No. 61. (1 S.I. 0028/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Mine. — A floating mine was sighted 25 miles E.S.E. of Toulon on 29/1. (D.S.514, 31/1).

Benghazi. — Indicate regiment German flak arrived or about to reach Benghazi. (C. in C. M.E., 0820/29, to W.O.).

Greek supplies in NORTHERN PRINCE. — My 41/74. It is confirmed that powder factory will in a few days be unable to manufacture S.A.A. and latter is of type not procurable elsewhere. If any chance existed of sending immediately even a proportion of brass and nickel cups and tetryl on NORTHERN PRINCE it will enable Manufacture to be continued for a while.(M.A. Athens, 1125/29 to C. in C. Med.)

Air Report. — Operational summary No. 253 up to 1800 hours 29/1/1941. (No naval items). (M.C.M.A.F. M.E., 1139/29.)

Italian U/Boat Attacked. — Your 0927/26. Greek Ministry of Marine inform me that position not known, but it is believed submarine was completely destroyed.(M.A. Athens, 1933/29 to Admty.)

Ammunition. — Admty. 1164/10. Supply in M.E.S. (D.T.S.D. 1704/29, to Admty.)

/Malta Air Report....

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Malta Air Report.

Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 29/1. All times G.M.T.

Enemy Cruiser.

Part 2. Reconnaissances. 0725 to 1500 Sunderland anti-convoy patrol Eastern Tunisian Coast. 0941 one Pola Class Cruiser 3 medium M/V's with Cant Z.501 escorting 21° Lampedusa 81 miles course 190° speed 8 knots. Air alarms Malta delayed despatch of Striking Force until too late to proceed. 0835 to 1015 Glenn Martin photo recco. Tripoli Castel Benito. Tripoli. One destroyer three M/V's 3000 tons one Cant. Z.506 three Cant Z.501's. Four medium M/V's 10 miles east of harbour one M/V half mile from harbour entrance seen to strike probable Cucumber causing large explosion forward. Many small craft left harbour and went alongside. Photos show her well down by bows and surrounded by boats. 1151 to 1600 Glenn Martin photo recco. Trapani and Palermo. Trapani one large and three small M/V's three submarines. At 1329 position 37. 55' N. 12. 15' E. course 360 degrees speed 10 knots three M/V's unladen 9,000 tons and one destroyer. Palermo. Three cruisers one destroyer, 15 medium M/V's. Photos taken. (H.R. R.A.F. Malta, 2830/29.)

Italy.

State of public opinion and morale, food situation etc. From secret source. (Madrid, 2017/29 to D.M.I.)

Malta Convoys.

Your Cosup 416 and my 1926/11. Approval has been given for one additional large ship to be allocated for each of next two Malta Convoys subject to confirmation by C. in C. Med. that there is no objection to inclusion of additional ships. (D.S.D. 2333/29, to Govr. Malta.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Troop Transport.

Your 1121/27, re transport of S.African Troops, and M.T. The question of this troop movement is being given urgent consideration. (D.S.D. (F) 0028/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown.)

Shipping Representations.

A.M.1630/24. Re:- A representative at Aden. Little for him to do. Consider great value would be obtained by the appointment of a representative to Colombo. (C. in C. E.I., 0516/29 to Admty.

NYMPHE.

Over-due shipping. Greek NYMPHE due Aden 23rd from Lourenco Marques not arrived. (S.O.I. Colombo, 0610/29.)

SHROPSHIRE
ENTERPRISE.

W.S.5A.
Force T.

SHROPSHIRE, epidemic Streptococcus (Sore throat). Medical authorities advise ship should not go to sea but owing to urgency of W.S.5 A, I approved her sailing with convoy A.M./29. Have ordered ENTERPRISE to relieve her as soon as possible. On relief SHROPSHIRE will return to Durban and take ENTERPRISE place in Force T as far as she is able. If necessary CERES will return to Durban Area, KAHIMBLA relieving her in convoy escort.(C. in C. E.I., 0633Z/29 to Admty.

My 0633/29 (1) on arrival Durban report your expected state of readiness for service. (11) Grateful if S.N.O. Simonstown could make arrangements, temporarily to fill vacancies in complement from ships refitting or Union sources, should this be necessary to keep force I a mobile fighting unit. (C. in C.E.I., 0640/29, to SHROPSHIRE.)

W.S.10.

F.O.C.E.I.N.'s. 1232/27 your 1326/27 to A.C.N.S. Request approximate date of arrival U.S. 10 Ceylon and whether any of these ships can proceed on to Middle East. (F.S.T.O. India 0732/29, to C. in C. E.I.)

/CAPETOWN.....

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

CAPETOWN.	Departure 0700Z/29 CAPETOWN proceeding through position 40 miles N.E. Cape Guardafui to latitude Kismayu. (N.O.I.C. Aden 0735Z/29, to Admty, etc.)
Convoy W.S.8.A.	Sailing telegram. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1120 Z/29.)
"Cucumbers".	My 0634/28. Report from N.O.I.C. Kilindini. (C. in C.E.L. 15322/29. to S.O. Force K.) See Operations Volume.
FELIX/ ROUSSEL. EORA. EMALDENA. JALADUTA. JALAUMAR. ESPERANCE. SANTHIA. VARELA.	My 1006/10 to C. in C. Following transports sailed Bombay 26/1 January with forces for Suez.(P.S.T.O. India 1204Z/29.)
Operation "Breach".	C. in C.E.114142/29. See Operations Volume.
Convoys U.S.9. U.S.8.	F.O.C.R.I.N. 1232/27. and 0708/28. (i) Transhipment of U.S.9 at Colombo would necessitate troops remaining in transports there for nine days as compared to four days at Bombay and arrival Suez would be five days later with consequent delay to U.S.10. Intend therefore, that U.S.8 should sail as arranged and proceed to Bombay for transhipment. (iii) My 1136 (U.S.8. ships expected to arrive at Bombay from Suez. (date) (C. in C. E.L.,14363/29, to A.C.N.B., F.O.C.R.I.N.)

/EMPIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

EMPIRE ABILITY. EMPIRE ABILITY unable to sail with W.I.M., refrigerator trouble. Should be ready for sea 30/1. Carries military stores for Aden, Port Sudan, Suez and Alexandria and is loaded to discharge in that order. Should she be sailed independently when ready? (N.O.I.C. Durban 1821/29 to C. in C. E.I. Reply: Yes. (C. in C. E.I. 0736/30.)

Construction of B.D.V.'s. Request you will ascertain whether Government of India could undertake construction of Eight Boom Defence Vessels of the BAR Class on Imperial account, and arrange provision of machinery, boilers and main equipment from sources outside U.K. (Particulars.) (Deputy Controller. 2006/29 to FOCRIN.)

China.

OSCAR GORTHEN. My 1916/28. A report has been received that Master & Chief Engineer Swedish ship OSCAR GORTHEN have Nazi sympathies. (D.D.I.C. 1606/29, to Consul-Gen, Honolulu.

C.B. SORENSEN. Has Norvegian Tanker C.B. SORENSEN arrived Yokohama? (D.T.D. 1627/29, to Consul General Kobe.)

America & West Indies.

ROZENBURG. Cancel my 0936/27, ROZENBURG returned for following reasons:- (N.C.S.O. Halifax 0958/29.)

MONTCLARE. S. O. 21. MONTCLARE sailing as ocean escort to S. C. 21, subsequently returning to Halifax. (F.O.S.B.S. 1110/29 to Admty.)

/TAMERLANE.....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

TAMERLANE
CARADOC.

My 1641/27 and Admiralty 1328/29. Remain with TAMERLANE until relieved by BULOLO. Use your discretion whether to proceed to Freetown or Trinidad on parting company. (C. in C. A.W.I, 1328/29, to CARADOC.)

PIERRE L.D.
etc.

C. in C. A.W.11833/39, S.A. French Merchant Ships.

Youg 1828. My longitude 1800 today 050° 15' W. making good 14 knots weather conditions adverse; ship was 11 hours late when originally met. Can only just reach longitude 041° W, and return. Impossible to reach Freetown. (CARADOC, 19180/29 to C. in C A.W.I.)

CARADOC.

Comply with C. in C. S.A.'s 1733N/29. (C. in C. A.W.S, 0253/29 to CARADOC.)

LAURENT
MINUS.

My 1751/29. Ship refloated. No apparent damage. Will be confirmed after examination by Divers. (N.O.I.C. Kingston 1813/29 to Admty.)

RAMILLIES.

Intend sailing RAMILLIES as ocean escort for H.M. leaving convoy in vicinity 27° West and returning to Halifax. (R.A.S. B.S. 1545/29 to Admty.)

TACHEE.

My 1905/26 and your 1139/27. Desire to ascertain definitely whether Adty., 1930/10/10 was acted upon and what instructions if any were given to TACHEE who did not sail until early December. (D.T.D. 1602/29 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. Contd.

H.K.106. If necessary to reduce numbers ships should be withdrawn from Convoy in following order. (D.T.D. 1738/29 to C.O.A.C. Halifax.)

ROYAL SOVEREIGN. My 1643/23. Para. 3B. ROYAL SOVEREIGN should leave convoy at dark on 25/2. (D.O.D.(H) 1005/29 to R.A.S, etc.)

COMORIN. Your 1638/29. Unless COMORIN is urgently required at Freetown on (date) proposed that she should leave Trinidad A.M. on 5/2 February and arrive at Freetown (date) In any case it is extremely doubtful if COMORIN could arrive (on first date.) (C. in C. A.W.I. 2332/29 to C. in C.S.A.)

CARADOC. Comply with C. in C. S.A's 1753M/29. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2253/2.)

EMPRESS OF ASIA. My 1343/17. S. In view of urgent necessity for vessel to come to U.K. for trooping service it has been proposed to Beatty that white crew be engaged in Vancouver and berthed in passenger accommodation. (D.S.T.2259/29, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

Australia.

Have you any news of FIJVA due Noumea. (D.T.D. 1026/29 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

20. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SALZBURG. Istanbul departure 20/1, German SALZBURG. (Galata, 1326/29.)0155/30th Jan.

ERNA OLDENDORF. Now reported (B.B.) to be beached at Marin, approx. 10 miles N. of Vigo. (D.S. 513.)

PLUG. Expected to sail soon from Vigo.(D.S.513.)

DITMARK, or DITHMARSCHEN. Report received that DITMARK, believed sister ship of ALTMARK ran aground at Trondjhein Fiord, 21/1. Beached at Hopla, 35 kilometres N.E. or N.W. of Trondjheim. Graded B.B, Vessel may possibly be DITHMARSCHEN. (B.B.I.C. 1129/29, to C. in C. H.F., F.O.I.S.) A.C.O.S.etc.)

LISBOA, BELLONA. It is stated that LISBOA BELLONA and others now on Valencia Marseilles run will not return here as they are to be fitted out for troop transports and sent to Italy. Value of information problematical as it is cafe gossip of German sailors. (Gib. 1855/29.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

HILDA. At Bandar Abbas.) Reported Iranian Govt. con
CABOTO. At Bandar Shahpur) sidering purchase from Lloyd Trestino.(DS.513.)

LIANA. At Bahia. Reports fermentation of cargo, damaging hull. Ship deteriorating owing to long immobility. (D.S. 513.)

BURMA. Driven ashore during gale on night of 20-21/1, is fast on a sandbank near Santa Monica. May become total loss. (D.S.513.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MIN. — Saigon arrival 28/1 MIN. (C.O.S. Singapore, 0702/29.)

PIERRE
L.D. etc. — Intercepted air letter reveals intention of one ship to leave Marseilles 27/1, and another on 4/2, both for Martinique where cargoes for U.S.A. will be transhipped. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1258/29.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

URLA
(Torpedoed 28/1)

Your 2053/28 to MALLOW. Am proceeding to assistance of URLA. My 2040 position 054° 00' N., 023° 40' W., E.T.A. 0830. (ANEMONE 0001/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

LURIGETHAN
(Torpedoed 26/1)

British 3564 tons. (See Capt. D. Londonderry 1614/29- S/M's Attacked)

S.C. 19

Convoy attacked. My P.C.& S at commencement of current watch 056° 00' (? 015°) 55' 082° 6 knots. (ANTELOPE, 0312/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
Position about 240' W. by N of Bloody Foreland. (D.S. 512)

W.B. WALKER

One ship sunk, tanker still floating. No contact. ANTHONY and ARAB standing by. ANTELOPE and LADY MADELEINE rejoining convoy. My position at 0300 056° 00' N., 015° 23' W., (ANTELOPE, 0452/29 to C. in C., W.A.) Tanker was W.B. WALKER, British, 10,468 tons, from Amba for Avonmouth with oil. (D.S. 512)

KING ROBERT

Another ship attacked have sighted U-Boat in contact. (ANTELOPE, 0545/29 to C. in C., W.A.)
? Presumably KING ROBERT, British, 5886 tons, St. John N.B. to Cardiff with grain. (See 1/2/41 for survivors)

W.B.WALKER afloat, crew consider her capable of salvage. ARAB standing by with crew. (ANTHONY, 0628/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

After 1 attack lost contact. Am searching with LADY MADELEINE. (ANTELOPE, 0635/20, to C. in C., W.A.)

Proceed as quickly as possible to join ANTELOPE hunting U-Boat in position 056° 00' N., 015° 23' W., at 0300. (C. in C., W.A., 0745/29 to SARDONIX, SCIMITAR. Cancelled see 1253/29.

Expect co-operation of 2 Lerwicks from 1000 approx. (C. in C., W.A., 0757/29 to ANTELOPE)

/My 0119/29.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

My 0119/29 and 0120/29. WESTCOTT (collision) no longer requiring assistance, proceed forthwith to assistance of tanker (Un-named) torpedoed in position 56° 00' N., 15° 23' W at 0300 today. ANTHONY and ARAB standing by. (F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1801/29 to SALVONIA, RESTIVE)

D/F of U-Boat at 0505, 056° 30' N., 015° 00' W., unreliable fix. (C. in C., W.A., 0813/29 to ANTELOPE)

S.C. 19

RUSHPOOL — British, 5125 tons, St. John N.B. for Belfast with grain.

WEST WALES — British, 4354 tons, New York for Newport with steel.

AIKATERINI — Greek, 4929 tons, Halifax for Dublin with grain.

Reference 0628 from ANTHONY. RUSHPOOL, WEST WALES and AIKATERINI also sunk. All saved from RUSHPOOL. Still searching area. (ANTELOPE, 0835/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Reference W.A.C.1 (corrupt group) 19. First attack thought to be starboard, escort firing star shells and searched to starboard subsequently. ANTHONY and ARAB picked up survivors. ANTELOPE while looking for convoy sighted 2 rockets, close finishing star shell sighted U-Boat close to torpedoed ship, turned to ram and dropped a pattern on submerged U-Boat. Contact ? confused with wreck and soon lost. Sweep organised. Survivors picked up. (f) 0820 since 1900 no zig-zag. (g) Calm dark (? starlight) (H) Consider attack carried out on starboard beam on surface. (ANTELOPE, 0845/29 to C. in C., W.A., Admty.

RESTIVE — Following has been read. 9999 55.42 N., 17.41 W., submarine in vicinity (? RESTIVE 1005/29 via Lyness Radio)

Following has been read 9988 Corrected position de GBNS (RESTIVE) 55. 42N., 17.21 W. (Lyness, 1024/29)

/Following.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

29.1.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd

Following has been read. SOS Heer R correct position from VAQO GBNS (RESTIVE) position confirmed as 55. 42 N., 17. 41 W. (Lyness 1033/29)

By D/F U-Boat in position 056° 00' N., reliable latitude 012½ degs. to 014 degs. West probably nearer 014° W. at 1011/29. (C. in C., W.A., 1047/29 to ANTELOPE, ANTHONY)

Your 1047. As convoy is in position 056° 14' N., 013° 40' W., am screening it with LADY MADELEINE. (ANTELOPE 1230/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

Cancel my 0745. Endeavour to join S.C. 19 before dark today estimated to be in position 056° 06' N., 014° 10' W., at 1200/29, routed through 056° 10' N., 013° 00' W., 055° 50' N., 008° 00' W speed 6 knots. (C. in C., W.A., 1253/29 to SARDONYX, SCIMITER)

Your 0800/29. When repairs have been effected proceed in execution of my 0801/29, name of tanker W.B. WALKER, acknowledge (F.O.I.C., Greenock 1332/29 to SALVONIA)

S.C. 19 Summary of Situation

S.C. 19 attacked at 0300 and 545. W.B. WALKER afloat ARAB standing by in position 56° 00' N., 15° 23' W., RUSHPOOL, WEST WALES and AIKATERINI sunk. Following D/Fs, 56° 30' N., 15° 00' W., unreliable at 0505. 56° 00' N., reliable latitude 12-1/2° to 14° W., probably nearer 14° W at 1011. RESTIVE proceeding to W.B. WALKER sighted U-Boat in position 55° 42' N., 17° 41' W., at 1015. ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, HEATHER, LADY MADELEINE with convoy which includes PEGASUS, SCIMITAR, SARDONYX joining from Londonderry. JACKAL, SCIMITAR and SARDONYX leave convoy at Dawn/30 to join S.L. 62 Route follows. (C. in C., W.A. 1335/29 to JACKAL, SCIMITAR, SARDONYX)

MOST SECRET

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Wednesday.

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U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked-Contd.

Two lifeboats with survivors in position 054° 56' N., 018° 46' W., (PRETORIA CASTLE 1435Z/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

C. in C., W.A., 1253/29, hoping to join S.C. 19 at 1930. If unable to make contact do not intend to break W/T silence to report unless convoy is attacked and shall proceed along convoy track in estimated position of convoy until dawn. If convoy is attacked request you will give me position immediately. (SCIMITAR, 1554/29 to ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, HEATHER, JACKAL.)

Keep well to Westwards of U-Boat reported in 55° 42' N., 17° 21' W., by RESTIVE. (C. in C., W.A., 1627/29 to PRETORIA CASTLE)

Two lifeboats with survivors reported in position 054° 56' N., 018° 46' W., at 1435Z Proceed forthwith to pick them up. (C. in C., W.A., 1757/29 to ANEMONE)

W.B. WALKER back broken at 2145. 2 halves now floating half mile apart in position 55° 59' N., 15° 51' W. Bow half is 25% stern half 50% above water neither showing any sign of sinking consider salvage by tug would be just possible if weather holds. RESTIVE not yet in company. Intend to continue searching vicinity with ARAB until daybreak then proceeding to Greenock. Have 72 survivors including 3 seriously injured, ARAB has 27. Request instructions re disposal of WALKER before leaving her. (ANTHONY, 2359/29 to C. in C., W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.

0300.	56.00 N, 15-33, W. (See Ships attached.)
0508.	56.30 N, 15.00 W. (C. in C. W.A., 0813/29.) (See Ships Attached.)
1008.	55.43,N, 17-41 W. (Lyness, 1006/29, 1024/29, 1033/29.) (See Ships Attached.)
1011.	56.00 N., 13½° - 14° W. (C. in C.W.A., 1047/29.) (See Ships Attached.)
0332.	53-30 N, 15° - 20° W., indefinite position of Italian U/B. (W.S.513.)
0421. 0458.)	About 56° 30' N, 15° 30' W, indefinite position. (D.S.513.) 56° - 57° N, 14° - 16° W.
1743.	55° to 55-30 N. 16° - 18° W. Station, position indefinite. (D.S. 513.)
2213.	46.55 N, 9.13 W. Station, position indefinite. (D.S. 513.)
0516.	By D/F on 3600 k/cs one enemy unit, probably U-boat, in the vicinity of the Azores at 0516/29. Unreliable fix. (Bearings.) (D.D.I.C. 0345/29 to C. in C.S.A., C. in C. W.A, etc.)
Non-sub.	Prominent non-sub. (As received) in position 058 degs. 53' N, 008 degs. 41' W, reported on 10th and 28th/1/1941. (R.A.D. H.F. 1030/29, to WORTHING.)

/S/M's Reported....

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN CONTD.

S/M's Reported. 0815.

448-Submarine Italian - F.X.H.B.0000 - 5026 - 0815.2219/28.)NOTE:- By D/F on 5026 kc/s at 0815/29. Position of Italian U/B was approximately 47° N: 9° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C.)

Estimated U/B dispositions GERMAN.

1 in 65° 04' N. 18° 48' W. at 1826/28. eastbound.
1 within 100 miles radius of 55° N.20° W. at 1826/28.
1 between 53° 30' N. and 55° 30' N. 20° W.and 21° W.
1 in about 56° N. 18° 23' W. at 0300/29, moving east.
1 in about 51° 30' N. 14° W. at 2133/28 bound for Lorient.
1 off Finisterre bound for Lorient.
1 near Azores patrolling.
1 near 17° N. 22° W. Southbound.

ITALIAN.

1 about 48° N. 14° W. bound for Gironde.
1 near Canaries. 1 in outer area of Bay of Biscay. 1 torpedoed URLA at 2030/28 in 54° N. 19° 20' W.
1 in 55° 42' N. 17° 41' W. at 1005/28.
1 in 53° N. to 53° 30' N. 16° W. to 16° W. at 1144/28.(D.D.I.C. 1533/29.)

S/M's Attacked. 0845.

By ANTELOPE. (ANTELOPE, 0845, 0833/29 0845/29. See Ships. Attacked.

By BUTTERMERE.

Carrying out three attacks in position four miles East of Butt of Lewis. Hydrophone effects heard distinctly. Asdic out of order. (BUTTERMERE,1515/29, to A.C.C.S.)

/Depth.....

NORTH SEA 32.

29. 1. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN CONTD.

Depth charged at 50 feet as Submarine was surfacing. Patches of oil remained. Cannot repair asdics. (BUTTERMERE, 1655/29, to A.C.C.S.)

Hunt for submarine reported in BUTTERMERE'S 1655. (A.C.C.S. 1755/29, to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS.)

Your 1754 Submarine sighted at 200 yards on its side and attacked immediately. Charge burst on target. Numerous air bubbles. Position 038° by 4.6 miles. WINDERMERE in company. (BUTTERMERE to A.C.C.S, 1945/29.

BUTTERMERE'S 1655/29. Was submarine actually sighted? (D.C. 1951/29 to A.C.C.S.)

Your 1951 see BUTTERMERE 1945 29th. (A.C.C.S. 2041/29, to Admty.)

My 1755. Are you in touch with BUTTERMERE? Continue hunt and report situation as you see it. (A.C.C.S. 2059/29, to HAVELOCK, HESPERUS.

By ARABIS, 0114/29.

Whilst ARABIS was standing by burning wreck of S.S. LURIGETHAN in position 55° 30' N. 15°44' W, a disturbance in water was sighted and also heard in engine-room at 0100/29. Three thousand yards from wreck, at 0111 good A/S contact obtained. At 0118 violent explosion from LURIGETHAN apparently torpedoed. At 0114 (and a half) ARABIS attacked with full pattern. At 0131 carried out 2nd attack in same position passing through heavy oil and wreckage. This was not wreckage of LURIGETHAN. After 2nd attack contact lost. Consider Submarine sighted ARABIS, dived at 0100, fired at wreck and was then attacked by ARABIS. No report was made as W/T was out of action. (Capt. D. Londonderry, 1614/29.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.1.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

C.S. 15 and cruisers returned to Scapa this forenoon, C. in C., H.F. in NELSON with REPULSE and destroyers returned this afternoon.

PRINCE OF WALES

Arrived at Rosyth this evening.

Shipping and Convoys

Small balloons are now being fitted to minesweepers and trials are to be carried out with a destroyer so fitted.

A total of about 77 ships sailed today in Convoy F.S. 99.

Certain procedure for dealing with stragglers from convoys in the Western Approaches is under consideration.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command last night attacked targets at Wilhelmshaven. Single aircraft attacked Bremerhaven, Emden, and the aerodrome at Borkum.

Bad weather caused flying by Coastal Command aircraft to be severely curtailed today. Trondheim and Stavanger could not be reconnoitred, but the Dutch coast was patrolled from Rotterdam to the Texel.

MOST SECRET

30.1.1941.
Thursday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

SS OLYMPIER, which had become separated from Convoy S.L. 62 was attacked this morning in the N.W. Approaches. No details are known. Another ship was bombed in the N.W.Approaches this forenoon but no details are known.

It is reported that fishing trawler CAERPHILLY CASTLE was sunk in the N.W. Approaches on 27/1.

An unknown ship was attacked this forenoon off the Lizard; nothing further is known.

SS GWYNWOOD was slightly damaged by air attack in the Thames on 26/1 and claims to have shot down her attacker.

Mining

German floating mines were sunk by gunfire today between Buchan Ness and Aberdeen. Others self exploded or were dealt with on the coast by Aberdeen and Peterhead.

A large number of German explosive floats were also sighted and are being dealt with. Similar floats (anti-sweeping device) have been recovered unexploded on the coast of the Orkney Is. Others are beleived to have been responsible for some of the explosions which have occurred there during the past 48 hours, though full sized mines must have caused certain of the explosions.

Mines were exploded off Liverpool and Plymouth today.

Avonmouth was opened this evening, but Newport and Barry Inlet are closed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Suez Canal Mined

Six German aircraft dropped bombs and parachute mines in the Suez Canal between Suez and Ismailia early this morning. A Canal Company dredger was sunk in Lake Timsah. The southern half of the Canal is closed to shipping owing to mines.

Air Situation in the Meditn.

C. in C., Med. today refers in his 1907/30 to the air situation in the Mediterranean as altered by the arrival of German aircraft in Sicily and elsewhere.

UPHOLDER sank two merchant ships of 8000 and 5000 tons off the east coast of Tunisia on 28/1 and 30/1.

America & West Indies

COMORIN intercepted the French CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE, Martinique to Casablanca, today, but allowed her to proceed being within the American neutrality zone.

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMAND.

Policy.

READING. A.M. 1241/29. Torpedo discharge trials. READING detailed. (C. in C. W.A. 1626/30).

Small Balloons in Destroyers. Reference decision to fit small balloons to minesweepers and destroyers, minesweepers are now being fitted but, before proceeding with destroyers, it is desired to gain experience with one ship. Request you will arrange for one destroyer to be fitted. (Kite Section 1708/30 to C. in C Portsmouth).

Liverpool. Diversion Craft. Owing to shortage of suitable craft for diversion duties at Liverpool, request consideration to allocation of Dutch T.Bs. 26, 7, 8, for these duties. (C. in C. W.A. 1907/30).

4 Sloops to join C. in C.W.A. My 1327/29. 1. Request you will detail two sloops to join (A) each OG convoy (B) each O.B. convoy which meets and S.L. convoy. 2. Routine to begin with O.B. 282. Routine orders. (C. in C. W.A. 1939/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/30 (D.O. 1151/30). At 2330/30 (D.O. 0005/31).

Stornoway. Manning of 4-inch Battery. Your 1823/28. Consider it desirable for naval ratings already enrolled to continue to man guns. (A.C.O.S. 1659/30).

Invasion. Recognition Signals. Your 0951/30. Admiralty Letter gives special recognition signals for use in the event of invasion. Details will be signalled should the necessity arise. (D.S.D. 2145/30 to F.O.I.C. Iceland.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

KIPLING, KASHMIR, KENYA, KELLY.

Plymouth 29/1. Arrivals 1022 KIPPLING KASHMIR 1802 KENYA. Departures 1605 KELLY KASHMIR. 1630 KENYA.
(C. in C. W.A. 0039/30).

KELLY and KIPLING are to R/V with KENYA 2.2. miles 180° Rame Head at 1030/30 and escort her to longitude (?22). Destroyers are then to return to Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 0753/30).

Sailed 1012 KENYA escorted by KELLY and KIPLING. Destroyers leave at Lands End returning Plymouth.
(C. in C. W.A. 1115/30).

D.7.

Cancel my 1435/29. Remain at Skaale Fiord. Orders follow.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0945/30).

KING GEROGE V.
ESKIMO.
ECLIPSE.
NAPIER.
SOMALI.

My 1106/27. Route of KING GEORGE V. to Scapa.
(C. in C. H.F. 1028/30).

ESKIMO with ECLIPSE proceed 0800/1 and NAPIER with SOMALI leave Skaale Fiord as necessary to R/V at 1800/2 B.S.T. with KING GEORGE V in position B. 062° N. 025° W. Provide escort to Scapa.

KING GEORGE V covering convoy B.H.X. 104 to 025° W. is routed as follows.

KING GEORGE V is requested to detach NAPIER in the vicinity of Cape Wrath to proceed independently to Clyde.
(R.A.D. H.F. 2031/30).

R.A. (D) H.F. 2031/30. 22 hours late.
(KING GEORGE V. 2307P/30).

CANADA.

French Hospital Ship CANADA may have left Toulon 13/1 for Liverpool (route) with safe conduct from British and German Governments.
(C. in C. W.A. 1123/30).

/NEPTUNE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

NEPTUNE. — F.O.C.N.A. 1934/29. Unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. N.F. from position (b) proceed through 000° Butt of Lewis 10 miles and thence by searched channel to Scapa.
(C. in C. W.A. 1207/30 to NEPTUNE).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines [illegible]ight. 6 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1508/30).

WORCESTERSHIRE. GALOPIAN. — Your 1833/29. Request WORCESTERSHIRE may be sailed to N/V with GALOPIAN in 70 miles 180° Sands Island at 1700/5 for onward passage to N.F. 42.
(F.O.C.N.F. 1530/30 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

PRINCE OF WALES. — Arrived and secured in No. 1 Dock.
(A.S. Rosyth 1855/30).

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA. — Next suitable date for receiving at Dover is night of 2nd /3rd Feb. Programme. V.A. Dover is requested to arrange for LADY BRASSEY and escort to arrive Southend p.m. Saturday.

F.O.I.C. London is requested to arrange for sailing of MINNIE DE LARRINAGA to Southend on 1/2 to arrive p.m. that day.
(C. in C. Nore 1142/30 to V.A. Dover).

Your 1142/30. Proposed programme.
(F.O.I.C. London 1400/30 to C. in C. Nore).

Your 1400/30 Approved.
(C. in C. Nore 2111/30 to F.O.I.C. London).

Operation N.C. — Will be carried out zero hour 2345.
(V.A. Dover 1253/30).

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. — Scapa arrivals 1105 C.S. 15th in NAIAD PHOEBE; 11250.S. 2 in GALATEA ARETHUSA; 1500 C. in C. Home Fleet in NELSON REPULSE, BEDOUIN MATABELE TARTAR ECCAPADE ELECTRA ECHO PUNJABI.
(A.C.O.S. 1542/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Submarines.

MINERVE. — Cancel my 1[illegible] 7/28.
(S.9. 1013/30 to F.O.S).

Tay Sanctuary. Bombing Restrictions. — OPS/143 30/1. Institute total SBR Tay Sanctuary from 1200/31 to 1900/31 and from 0800/1 to 1900/1.
(H.Q.C.C. 1530/30).

Positions. — At 0800/31 and movements for following 24 hours (F.O.S. 1603/30).

British Air Activity.

Patrols. — Additional Patrols being flown today. One special R/C Trondheim. One special R/C Stavanger.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1100/30 to C. in C. H.F).

Air patrol for 31/1. Dawn to dusk patrol will be provided for co-operation with anti-submarine ship unless cancelled. S.T. to patrol at 1000.
(R.A. Station, Stornoway 1610/30 to A.C.C.S).

Result of Air R/C today of Trondjhem and Stavanger negative. Owing to lack of cloud cover A/C were unable to approach objectives.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1952/30).

Tyne Balloon Barrage. — Balloon barrage cover for Vickers Naval Yard not adequate. Request two more sites be demanded from Air Ministry immediately.
(F.C.I.C. Tyne 1226/30).

F.C.I.C. Tyne has asked that immediate steps be taken to provide more adequate Balloon Barrage cover for Vickers Naval Yard. If additional balloons can not be provided request immediate re-siting of barrage to give added protection to the yard in question.
(D. of L.D. 1707/30 to Air Ministry).

/Own.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Own A/C Reported Fired on.

887 30/1. Hampden aircraft returning from operational flight 12/1/41 was fired upon at 2015 hours by A.A. defences Plymouth. H.Q.F.C. having investigated the incident report that aircraft was apparently engaged by Naval Pom-pom site at Penlee Point. Request submission of a report giving circumstances under which fire was opened.
(Air Ministry F.O. 6 1640/30 to Adty).

C.H.L. Station, May Island.

My 1829/8/1. On three recent occasions aircraft have approached the Firth of Forth from the Eastward, carried out an extensive reconnaissance of the Firth of Forth including the Dockyard, and have not been intercepted by our own fighters, at 1402/24, at 1258/25, and at 1535/27. On each occasion the first indication of the presence of hostile aircraft was received from a ship. It would appear therefore that there is a lane of approach through which aircraft can arrive off May Island undetected by C.H.L. Stations. In Rosyth submission No. 4732/001559 of 28/11/40 the recommendation of A.O.C. 13th Group to instal C.H.L. station at May Island was strongly supported. Submitted that in view of growing importance of Rosyth Dockyard greater cover from C.H.L. stations is necessary and the setting up of a C.H.L. station at May Island is strongly recommended.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1547/30 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

PANDION.

Intercept at 0518 G.M.T. Off Dunree Head, Loch Swilley. Have dragged anchor making water, endeavouring proceed to sea, or further up harbour.
(Port Patrick Radio 0528/30).

Intercept at 0535 G.M.T. Ship now completely disabled.
(C.G. Port Patrick 0535/30).

/Cancel.....

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd.).

Cancel all previous instructions. Proceed forthwith to assist PANDION in distress at entrance to Lough Foyle.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0747/30 to SALVONIA).

My 0747/30. For LOUGH FOYLE read LOCH SWILLY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0925/30 to SALVONIA).

S.S. PANDION anchored Lough Swilly dragged and grounded on Swilly Rock. Master is dead. First mate and remainder of crew 5 in number landed.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 1703/30).

My 1823/30. SALVONIA reports at 1630 PANDION aground Swilly Rocks. Unable to board her, heavy swell and darkness. Anchoring at Lenan Bay until daylight when will investigate further.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2044/30 to C. in C. W.A).

OLYMPIER. (Belgian, 5266 Tons) Attacked by A/C in 54° 7'N. 16° 11'W.
(Plymouth W/T 1002 /30).

CAERPHILLY CASTLE. (Swansea Trawler). Trawler WILLIAM BUNCE reports sinking of CAERPHILLY CASTLE 1130/27 by 4 engined aeroplane in 52° 35'N. 12°W. Attack lasted one hour. Nine bombs dropped. Three drowned. Eight survivors brought into Milford Haven.
(F.O.E.C. Milford Haven 1106/30).

Unknown Ships attacked. Being attacked off Lizard by enemy aircraft.
(Lands End Radio 1123/30).

/AUSTVARD.....

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

AUSTVARD. (Norw.3677 tons.)

If fuel permits proceed to assist. Unknown Ship bombed in 054° 15'N. 014° W. at 1110/30.
(C. in C. W.A. 1153/30 to ANTHONY)

Note. Evidently AUSTVARD. Sunk. 6 direct hits. 5 killed 8 survivors landed Dingle Peninsula, 2 d. Rest of crew on rafts missing. See A.M.S.E. No. 103.

Sortie from Brest. Unusual distance.

Aircraft on daily sortie from Brest, usually to 48° N. 10° W. flew as far S.W. as 45° N. 11° W. on 30/1.
(D.D.I.C. 1446/30 F.O.C. North Atlantic).

Dover U.P. Batteries.

Dover U.P. batteries fired 120 rounds at low flying aircraft between 1434 and 1625 today. Low clouds prevented observation of any results.
(V.A. Dover 1748/30).

BREMERHOLM. (mined 29/1).

Has since sunk (D.S. 514).

Mining.

Operation S.N.7.

Propose to carry out as follows.
(R.A.M.L. 0021/30). See Operations Volume.

Following are passed for information.
One. CHITRAL leaves Reykjavik to pass through position A. 1000/1 thence through position B. and Minches to Clyde.
Speed 13½ knots. Would be grateful if your destroyers could provide escort from A to Minches. By 1004/21. Both ships delayed by repairs but anticip ate being able to sail BRIGHTON and LANCASTER 3/2.
R.A.D. H.F. 1032/2 7 to R.A.M.L.

/Two.....

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Two. Your 1030/27. ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON will be detailed for this duty provided there is no possibility of cover and escort for a further S.N. operation before 4/1.
(H.A.M.L. 1001/29 to H.A.D.H.F).

Three. Your 1001/26. Confirmed no Home Fleet Destroyers available until BRIGHTON and LANCASTER are sailed.
(H.A.D.H.F. 1105/29 to H.A.M.L).

Four. C. in C. H.F. 1828/29. As ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON are lent to you in accordance with your 1030/27 can four destroyers be provided by you as A/S escort for next lay.
(H.A.M.L. 2342/29 to H.A.D.H.F.).

Five. Your 2342/29. See my 1105/29 and 1030/27 para 2 which is confirmed.
1035/30. (H.A.D. 1035/30 to H.A.M.L).
(H.A.M.L. 1453/30 to Adty).

H.A.D. 1036/30. Date of sailing for S.N. 7. will therefore be F.M./4.
(H.A.M.L. 1456/30).

B.S. 50. Operation postponed on account of weather.
(S.O. Minelayers, Immingham)1140/30).

My 1140/30:- Weather is impracticable for operation B.S. 50. and further outlook indicates no improvement for a considerable period. Request instructions for QUORN.
(TEVIOT BANK 1145/30).

TEVIOT BANK'S 1145/30. Request QUORN be sailed to H.V. with P.S. 99 and act as additional escort to Harwich.
(C. in C. Nore 1820/30 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

B.S. 50 is postponed owing to weather QUORN is required at Harwich. Another Destroyer will be sent to Humber when weather shows signs of moderating.
(C. in C. Nore 1955/30 to C. in C. Rosyth).

/Aberdeen.....

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (contd).

Aberdeen Area.

Report from 12th M.S. Group. Following three German Mines sunk by gunfire between Buchan Ness and Aberdeen on 29/1. Also sighted following German explosion floats 3 colour red 2 colour grey 2 colour black. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1246/30).

My 1216/26/1. Details of mines self exploded, rendered safe etc., Aberdeen and Peterhead.
The large number of German explosive floats are being dealt with.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2001/30).

Liverpool.

At 1615/25. Mine exploded by S.A. gear Midway between Q.2. and B.1 buoys. Second mine not previously reported at 1005/26. N.E. Bar L.V.5 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1315/30).

SATURNUS.

(Dutch Balloon barrage vessel) Mined at 1820/29 in 132° Bar L.V. 2 miles. Vessel had just let anchor go. Suspected 2 mines detonated. Fate of vessel is uncertain owing to visibility. No casualties.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1754/30).

Bristol Channel.

Ships may now enter and leave Avonmouth but are no to enter or leave Newport. Ships should not leave Barry Inlet until further orders.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1842/30).

Plymouth.

One red mine detonated 1430 today 252° Breakwater Lighthouse 4 point 2 cables.
(C. in C. W.A.1900/30).

Orkneys Explosions on Coast.

During the past 48 hours a number of explosions have occurred on the coast of the Orkneys Islands. Some explosions are believed to be caused by a German conic shaped anti sweeping device since unexploded ones have been recovered near by, whilst others must have been caused by full sized mines. (A.C.O.S. 1943/30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

TIRPITZ.
BREMEN.
EUROPA.

PRU Sortie at 1520/29 shows TIRPITZ in Wilhelmshaven but moved from Bauhafen to southern entrance to Scheerhafen probably at Fuel Depot. Funnel fitted with pronounced cinder screen, no rake to [illegible], and tall pole mast abaft funnel. In Bremerhaven BREMEN and EUROPA still present at previously reported berths. (PRU Benson -015/30 to N.I.D.).

Baltic.

Ice Report, 30/1.
(N.A. Stockholm 1711/30).

Navigation Lights near Bud.

CACHALOT reports all lights near BUD (055° 54 'N. 005° 54'E) appear to be working normally.
(F.O.S. 2131/30).

Miscellaneous.

Ships not receiving signals.

Please see HAVELOCK 0201/30 and HESPERUS 0250/30. In an endeavour to get these 2 ships who were in the vicinity Cape Wrath to Hydra the U-boats attacked [illegible] at 1515 I made my 1755/29 which was repeated to you and 3 other signals which were broadcasting as follows.
It appears that HESPERUS and HAVELOCK did not receive these signals although they were in area A. This resulted in a delay of about 12 hours in getting any destroyers on the scene of action.
(A.C.O.S. 1514/30 to C. in C. W.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

E.N. 64.	(A) 0300/30 (B) H.M.T's LADY ROSEMARY, SARABANDE MACDUFF. Additional escort POWEY. (C) 28 ships. 6 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0631/30).
W.N. 75.	My 1414/29 and 1004/29. W.N. 75. Part 1 arrived 0200/30. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0630/30).
F.N. 65.	18 ships and 16 trawlers from Humber joining 62 D. buoy all for North of Blyth excepting 5 ships. (C. in C. Rosyth 0708/30 to WOOLSTON VIVIEN SOUTHDOWN).
O.B. 279.	Sailed O.B. 279 - 0350/30 - 10 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Maltbea 0900/30).
F.N. 64.	Arrived 0900/30. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0944/30).
E.N. 65. WESTON.	Act as additional A.A. escort to E.N. 65. Sailing at 2200/31 as far as Dunnet Head then proceed independently to Londonderry adjusting speed so as to arrive in daylight 3/2. If heavy weather is encountered speed is to be reduced as necessary to avoid damage. Code Word for E.N. 65 MIGHT. (C. in C. Rosyth 1026/30 to WESTON).
W.N. 76. HASTINGS.	Proceed at 1300/1 independently and adjust speed so as to meet at Dunnet Head W.N. 76 due Duncansby Head 1230/2. Act as additional A/A escort to W.N. 76, code word CHITTY. (C. in C. Rosyth 1020/30 to HASTINGS amended 1233/31).
F.N. 63.	Wash Ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1144/30).
E.N. 76. W.N. 76.	Part company from W.N. 76 at 1400/30 and proceed Northwards to meet ST. APOLLO with rear portion of W.N. 75 due off Aberdeen about 1600/30 act as additional A.A. escort to these ships to Methil. (C. in C. Rosyth 1144/30 to JASON).

/C.W.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 20.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

C.W. 24. Your 2124/ (sailing of C.W. 24) all arrived.
(C. in C. Portsmouth, 1234/30).

K.G. My 1951/20. Route for SOLLO (KG convoy and escort). Amend route to read West Hay Firth C. and J.
(A.C.O.S. 1366/30 to Admty etc).

F.S. 99. My 2011/29. F.S. 99. 36 ships sailed.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1441/30).

F.S. 99 sailed 1500.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1504/30).

Ships for Turkey. Your 1014/29. These ships should be sailed for the Clyde where other Turkish ferry boats are awaiting arrangements for onward passage.
(D.T.D. 1530/30 to N.C.S.O. Methil).

OBA Sailed OBA 1400/30/1. Escort HAVELOCK. 4 ships. 3 ships carried kites.
(N.O.I.C. Oban 1638/30).

W.N. 76. Arrived 1500/30.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1644/30).

F.S. 97. Four ships only for convoy F.S. 97 reported in Barrow Deep at 1800, of these 3 are for London.
(N. .S.O. Thames 1548/30).

F.N. and F.S. escorts. Cancel my 1720/25 and 1617/27. Additional escorts detailed as follows:-

F.N.	F.S.	
95	100	PUFFIN
-	1	SHELDRAKE
96	2	LE TIGER GREENFLY
99	3	SNAPDRAGON.

SHELDRAKE to anchor in Yarmouth Roads night of Saturday 1/2. SNAPDRAGON enter Humber for night of Tuesday 4/2.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1546/30).

/O.B.O. 280....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. (contd).

O.B.O. 280. 0600/31/1. Escort CAMELLIA 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1606/30).

F.S. 99. Sailed 1500/30/1. Estimated number of ships 77. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1641/30).

W.N. 77. My 1935/29 amend number of ships to read (8). Ten ships sailed only two now returned Clyde, three ships with kites. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1041/30 to C. in C. W.A).

F.S. 99. 12 Ships from Humber joining at Outer Dowaing. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1706/30).

W.N. 77 (O) Sailed W.N. 77 (O) 1500/30. Escort H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY. 8 ships (2 Kites). (N.C.S.O. Oban 1726/30).

SCILLONIAN. Detail one town class Destroyer to escort SCILLONIAN as follows (programme between Newlyn and Scilly 1/2 to 3/2). Destroyer to anchor for the nights at Scilly. If desired a second Towns Class Destroyer can take over the escort at 1430/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1745/30 to D. Plymouth).

K.C. N.C.S.O. Kirkwall reports convoy K.C. sailed 1300 as in my 1325/30. (A.C.O.S. 1748/30 to Admty etc).

S.M.V.'s. Sailed eight M.V's escorted by two A/S Trawlers for Dartmouth. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1817/30 to N.O.I.C. Dartmouth).

/F.S. 99.....

MOST SECRET.

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Thursday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 99.
QUORN.

TEVIOT BANK's 1145/30. Request QUORN be sailed to rendesvous with F.S. 99 and act as additional escort to Harwich.
(C. in C. Nore 1820/30).

E.N. 65.
E.N. 66.

Owing to late arrival of ST APOLLO at Methil Trawler escorts are rearranged as follows.
E.N. 65 BERKSHIRE FANDANGO.
E.N. 66 STELLA CAPELLA ST APOLLO.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1855/30 to C. in C. W.A, F.O.I.C. Belfast).

W.N 77.

Your 1101. Estimate W.N. 77 ten miles N.W. of Oban R/V at 2000. Endeavour to rejoin.
(C. in C. W.A. 1943/30 to ULLSWATER).

O.S. 201.

(a) 0530/2/2/41.
(b) Unescorted.
(c) Two, Polish WISLA, Swedish PACIFIC, Kites, nil.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 2000/30).

W.N. 75.
F.N. 94.
W.N. 70.
E.N. 84.

Rosyth 30/1. Arrivals. Additional to my 1449/30, WESTON, BERKSHIRE with portion of W.N. 75. FLEETWOOD, WALLACE with F.N. 94. STELLA CAPELLA, FANDANGO and JASON with W.N. 76.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2031/30).

O.M.V.'s.

Intend sailing 1630/31 eight merchant ships for Hartland Cap. Escort LORD ESSENDON and CORNELIAN.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2219/30).

OBC 230.

(A) 0135/31. (B) ARBUTUS (C) 16 ships 2 with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 2358 /30).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Ocean Convoys.	
S.C.19.	Re. C. in C. W.A. 2359/29 S.C.19 not met. My p.c. and s. are 056° 38' 013° 13' 255° 20'. Searching from 1600 expect to join you by 1830. (SARDONYX 1000/30 to MALLOW).
S.L. 62.	3 hours early (MALLOW, 1150/30) See ships attached (UHLA) U-Boat campaign.
O.B. and S.L.	My 1327/29. Request two sloops to join each O.B. Convoy and each O.B. Convoy which meets an S.L. Convoy. Routine to begin with O.B. 282. Instructions. First duty of sloops is A/A protection. (C. in C. W.A. 1939/30 to N.O.I.C. Londonderry).
H.X. 104.	Meet. (C. in C. W.A. 2009/30 to ARROW. OURAGON. CHURCHILL. HEARTSEASE. HOLLYHOCK. AUBRETIA. KING SOL).
H.X. 103. W.N. 77.	H.X. 103 and W.N. 77 will not have individual A/S air escort tomorrow but Minches will be patrolled by Ansons throughout daylight. (C. in C. Rosyth 2040/30 to WHITEHALL. WICHELSEA. VERBENA. GENTIAN. ULLSWATER. PAYNTER).
Transport of Aircraft. Destinations.	Ships carrying aircraft have frequently been sailed for destinations where the aircraft could not be handled. Aircraft must be removed from ships immediately on arrival in U.K. Bombers can be unloaded only at Liverpool but other types of aircraft at all usual ports. You are requested to observe following procedure. All ships if carrying bombers must be sailed for Liverpool irrespective of destination declared or sailing destination received from Adty. If carrying other type of aircraft ships bound for East Coast U.K. must be sailed for Clyde. Ships carrying aircraft which are not bombers if bound for West Coast U.K. may be sailed direct to destination. (D.T.D. 1827/30 to C.O.A.C. Halifax).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.
(contd).

Procedure for Stragglers.

Following procedure for dealing with Stragglers from Convoys is under consideration. 2. Ships from homeward bound Convoys routed North of Rockall which straggle west of 22° 30 W. should proceed to Hvalfjord or Reykjavik to await onward escort. 3. Ships from any outward bound Convoys which straggle East of 10° W. should return to U.K.
4. The Advantages of the above appear to be:- (a) Probable reduction of losses from U-boat and air attack. (b) Impressing on the minds of Masters the seriousness with which straggling is viewed by Naval Authorities. 5. The Disadvantages are:- (a) Additional escorts required. (b) Loss of time to Shipping. 6. Request your remarks.
(D.T.D. 1832/30 to C. in C. W.A.).

Military Convoys.

Force Z.
GEORGIC.

C. in C. W.A. 1231/28. GEORGIC cannot sail from Liverpool until 1430/31.

Request you will sail Force Z to R/V with GEORGIC at 0830/1 in 236° Skerryvore 17 miles.
(F.O. Liverpool 1811/30 to F.O. Greenock).

W.S.6.

All messages referring to Convoy W.S. 6 are to be in Cypher even if sent by T/P.
(D.N.I. 1924/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

War Diary.

CASUAITIES & DEFECTS.

SANDHILL. — South Easterly gale and poor visability prevent our approaching SANDHILL position. Am sheltering until weather moderated. (SCHELDE 0850/30)

Your 1350/29. SCHELDE not arrived. Request she may be hastened if vessel is to survive. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1205/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

My 1205/30. Tug is conforming to your 1350/29 but unable to approach in present weather. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1240/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

WESTCOTT. BLUEBELL. — Request weather forecast for next 36 hours for WESTCOTT proceeding to Liverpool from Londonderry with damaged bulkhead and flooded boiler room. (WESTCOTT 1257/30 to Adty).

Arrived Londonderry 30/1. (Capt D. Londonderry 1723/30).

RESTIVE. — (Rescue Tug). Your 1230/30. Engineer reports imperative reach Port. Engine in very bad state and liable to break down completely. (RESTIVE 1535/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Your 1535/30. Return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1740/30 to RESTIVE).

FAME. — F.O.i/c Tyne 1509/10. It is considered essential that a maintenance party should be carried on board.

2. Towage is being arranged by Adty. and D. of S.T. (D.O.D. H. 1335/30 to C. in C. Rosyth).

/OURAGAN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS. (contd).

CURAGAO.	One of my condensers is leaking badly. Maximum speed 12 knots. Returning Greenock. E.T.A. 1500/31. (CURAGAO 1700/30 to ARROW).
WIRA.	My 1601/30. Arrived Kirkwall at 1500 today. (F.O.I.B.F. 1723/30).
MACGREGOR. LAIRD.	In company with MACGREGOR LAIRD 50° 49'N. 22° 2'W. She has effected temporary repairs. She request proceed to Azores to complete and for KINGCUP to stand by. Proceeding 199° 8 knots awaiting orders. My Lubricating oil remaining for 6 days. (KINGCUP 1740/30 and 2000/30 to C. in C.W.A).
STANMORE.	(British, 4979 Tons) Returned Belfast Lough. Failed meet O.B. 279 at R/V. Grounded on way back off Port Patrick in thick weather. Not making water. (N.O.I.C. Belfast 1915/30).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
THURSDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raiders.

North Atlantic. EURYLOCHUS reported being gunned on 29/1 700 miles west of Freetown. AFRIC STAR also reported raider probably in same position. Raider may be one which attacked BRITISH UNION.

South Atlantic. Considerable number of D/F fixes indicate at least two units in area 0° to 20°S., 0° to 20° W.

Southern Ocean. Norwegian Whaler PELAGOS feared captured on or after 15/1, 100 miles east of OLE WEGGER's position.

Indian Ocean. MANDASOR bombed and probably captured 300 miles East of Seychelles 24/1. May be raider which was near Kerguelen 12/1.

Pacific. Doubtful report from Swedish OSCAR GORTHEN that raider and prize were sighted off Ladrones 27/1.

German MUNSTERLAND left Kobe 26/1 possibly to R/V with raiders.
(D.D.I.C. 1848/30 to C.in C's etc.)

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

VILLE DE TAMATAVE, VILLE DU HAVRE, FRANCOIS.

My 1203/25 same source denied.

(1) VILLE DE TAMATAVE was seen at Dakar 10/1.

(2) VILLE DU HAVRE after being repaired at Dakar sailed 10/1, for Madagascar.

(3) FRANCOIS left from Marseilles 29/11 as second ship of regular sailings referred to in my 1135/24.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1303/30 to Admty etc.)

North Atlantic.

DUNEDIN)
KENYA)
SOBIESKI)
etc.)

Amending his 1232/29 and 1208/29.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1056/30 to ROCHESTER, DUNEDIN).
See Operations Volume.

Force H, information re Air Attacks.

Grateful if S.O. Force "H" can be included in address of messages reporting operations in Eastern Mediterranean which may affect Western Med. and in particular those referring to Air Attacks by enemy Aircraft.
Re Air Attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS, request following information concerning.
(S.O. Force H, 1118/30 to C.in C. Med.)

BATORY.

Route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1136/30).

Force H. Destroyers.

Admty's 2035/28. (SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU)
Can any degree of probability be now assessed?
S.O. Force H represents that in view of forthcoming operation it is not desirable to maintain destroyer patrol tonight in order that they may have night in harbour for rest and to afford opportunity for discussion with C.O.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1154/30 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

SKAANE (Danish) — Your 1824/28. Master of SKAANE has been instructed by his owners not to leave Lisbon. Proposals. (Consul-General Lisbon, 1510/30 to Admty).

Force H Destroyers. — Your 1154/30. Probability is not now considered sufficient to justify destroyers taking part in forthcoming operation being maintained on patrol tonight. (D.O.D.(F) 1557/30 to F.O.C.N.A.)

OTUS. — OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1220/30).

Air Report. — Daily Summary Operations. Routine A.S. patrols. 3 Surface Reccos. Area covered 3' 50" W. to 11° W. (200 Group 1725/30).

RESOLUTION. — Your 1919/27. Endurance figures and anticipation date of sailing. (F.O.C.N.A. 1758/30 to Admty) See Operations Volume.

Equipment. — C.in C. Med. 1257/24. Re shipment of U.P. projectors. (F.O.C.N.A. 1924/30 to Admty).

South Atlantic.

Convoy S.L.64. — Departures 0830/30 ARAWA as ocean escort to convoy S.L.64 and thence in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1341/29/1. Local A/S escort ASPHODEL CALENDULA Trawlers TURCOMAN until dusk 2/2 also sailed S.L.S.64 with local A/S escort trawlers SPANIARD and PICT. (S.O.(I) Freetown 0959/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

EURYLOCHUS (Gunned 29/1).	EURYLOCHUS raider report. Position appears improbable, request route of EURYLOCHUS. (C.in C. S.A. 1001/30 to Admty).
BULOLO.	My 1723/29. Position of CARADOC and TAMERLANE. Date to make contact. (C.in C. S.A. 1037/30 to BULOLO) See Operations Volume.
Suspicious Ship.	S.O.(I) Capetown's 1046/28. Request British ship SCOTTISH TRADER be questioned on arrival in U.K. whether ship sighted U.S. ship CHARLES C. CRAMP. (C.in C. S.A. 1108/30 to Admty).
Force Z. GEORGIC.	Admty. 1655/22 and C.in C. W.A. 1229/28. Route from R/V "Q". (C.in C. S.A. 1131N/30 to F.O.I.C. Greenock C.in C. W.A. repeated KENYA, DORSETSHIRE). See Operations Volume.
LA FONIA.	Your 1828/29 LA FONIA arrived Port Stanley 16/1 and sailed for Punta Arenas 29/1. (N.C.S.O. Montevideo, 1141/30 to Admty).
VICEROY OF INDIA.	H.M. Transport VICEROY OF INDIA sailed 29/1 with R.A.F. details Cargo space available. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1228/30 to Admty).
COMMANDANT DUBOC.	Your 2121/26. COMMANDANT DUBOC is intended for escort of PORT BINGER, para 6 of D. of S.T. 2003/24 refers. (D.O.D.(F) 1336/30 to C.in C. S.A.)
Whale Catchers.	Your 1357/29. My 1931/19 was passed to South Georgia by my 2133/19 prefixed immediate. further by G.B.M.S. broadcast my 0015/30. South Georgia plain language broadcast to ships intercepted at 0158Z/30 and 0211Z/30. Further plain language broadcast has been made my 1045/30. (N.O.I.C. Falklands, 1506Z/30 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Brazilian Neutrality Laws. The following Brazilian decree laws implementing recommendations of Inter-American Neutrality commission have recently become effective.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro, 1602/30).

Coast Defences. A.M. 2306/29/12. Loan to Union Government of two six-inch mark XI guns as suggested in your 1927/18/12 is now approved subject to concurrence of C.in C. S.A. Union Government should be requested to provide a P.W.S.S. and an Examination Service.
(Hd. of M. 1617/29 to S.N.O. Simonstown).

T.C.9. NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE to R/V. (date and position). (D.O.D.(H) 1907/30 to C.in C. S.A.)
See Operations Volume.

Coast Defence. Your 1617/29. My proposal was that these guns should go to Takoradi but as this has not been approved have no objection to them going to Walvis Bay.
(C.in C. S.A. 1847/30 to Admty).

AUTOLYCUS. Route.
(D.T.D. 1917/30 to C.B.M.S. area 1).

Convoy W.S.S.B. According to Naval advices MONARCH OF BERMUDA also in convoy. Telegraph destination and details.
(Movements Durban, 2000/30 to W.O).

Uruguay Neutral Zone. As aftermath to MONDOZA incident Uruguayan Minister for Foreign Affairs has again submitted to inter American neutrality committee proposal for extension of territorial waters from three to twenty-five miles. This proposal was previously put forward by Uruguay at Havana conference.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 2120Z/30 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

HERMES ENTERPRISE. Suggest that it would be more convenient for HERMES and ENTERPRISE to continue to be administered by me while operating in Cape Durban Area.
(C.in C. S.A. 2351N/30, to C.in C. E.I.)

Mediterranean.

Destroyers JAGUAR. Your 1527/28.
Arrangements for gradually increasing your Destroyer strength will be signalled shortly. JAGUAR will remain in Eastern Mediterranean.
(1st S.L. 1057/30 to C.in C. Med.)

Suez Canal Mined. About 6 enemy planes dropped bombs and parachute mines between Suez and Ismailia 0415 - 0640/30. One Canal Company Dredger sunk in Lake Timsah. Unexpected magnetic mines seen at Kilos 83 Deversoir Kilos 139 Kilos 141. Presence of others suspected. Traffic suspended pending sweeping and disposal.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1117/30 to Admty etc.)

Air Report, Crete Air Raid. Night 29/30 Jan. Enemy aircraft dropped bombs along Suez Canal including vicinity Shallufa aerodrome no R.A.F. damage no casualties.

(2) Greece. 4 enemy aircraft reconnoitred Crete bombing 6 Swordfish at Heraklion.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1133/30).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mining of Suez Canal. (Contd.)

It is likely that the southern half of Suez Canal will be closed to shipping for at least a further 36 hours owing to mines. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1225/30 to C.in C. Med. etc.)

Greek Submarine PROTEUS.

Cancel my 1256/29. Copies of S.P. 2339 and S.P. 02340 were board Greek S/M PROTEUS sunk on 29/12. Italian communique claims she was (rescued) by TBD and afterwards depth charged position not yet known. It is believed that no prisoners were taken as interrogation of Italians here show no indication of Greek Naval Prisoners. (N.A.Athens, 1850/30 to Admty).

ILLUSTRIOUS.

Destination.
(1st S.L. 1332/30 to C.in C. Med.)
See Mediterranean Volume.

Crews for Turkish Destroyers and S/M's completing in England.

A.N.A. Angora 1710/30.

Reinforcements, M.T.B's etc.

My 1039/12. Programme for T.L.C. M.L.C. A.L.C. S.L.C. Eurekas, and M.T.B's. (D.D.T.S.D. 1820/30 amended 1229/31 to C.in C. Med.) See Med. Vol.

Air Strength.

Reply to Admty. 0027/29. (C.in C. Med. 1901/30, 1907/30, 1933/30, 1941/30, 1959/30 2007/30). See Med. Volume.

Success of Air Attack on Convoy on 27/1.

Your 1021/28. The combined R.A.F. and Naval Aircraft operation which resulted in the successful attack on the convoy at a distance of 165 miles from Malta was well planned and executed. Those concerned are to be congratulated. This provides an excellent illustration of the correct employment of Air search and striking forces. (S.S.L. 2000/30 to C.in C. Med.)

Mischievous statement by B.B.C. re Air attacks on Egypt.

Protest. (C.in C. Med. 2231/30).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Force K. Re forthcoming operations.
(S.O.Force K, 0627Z/30 to C.in C. E.I. and reply by C.in C. E.I. 1932Z/30). See Operations Vol.

Convoys. Admty. 1415/28. Trial arrangements will be made to sail slow ships in advance of the main convoy. This will entail slight additional risk for individual ships but I am reluctant to reduce the limiting speed of the whole convoy. Loaded tanker cannot zigzag in safety at less than 8 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 0734Z/30 to Admty).

EMPIRE ABILITY. Your 1521/29. (Independent sailing of EMPIRE ABILITY). Yes.
(C.in C. E.I. 0736/30 to N.O.I.C. Durban).

ENTERPRISE SHROPSHIRE. My 0816/23. ENTERPRISE has replaced SHROPSHIRE in convoy escort and SHROPSHIRE is returning to Durban. ENTERPRISE is to proceed to Aden for fuel and rejoin convoy as arranged by S.N.O. Red Sea.
(C.in C. E.I. 0738Z/30 to S.N.O. Red Sea, KANIMBLA, SHROPSHIRE ENTERPRISE HERMES CERES CAPETOWN.

SHROPSHIRE epidemic. My 1630/28 and your 0640Z/29. Present total of cases 83. All being discharged hospital and ship disinfected. Ship is fit for service now in emergency at 70% normal efficiency.
(SHROPSHIRE, 1000Z/30 to C.in C. E.I).

LEANDER. LEANDER is to sail 0330Z/31 and proceed to patrol between position 004° N., 077° E. and 004° N., 083° E. commencing at Westward position. Speed on patrol 12 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 1032Z/30 to LEANDER).

HECTOR. My 1208/21 and S.N.O. Red Sea 0928/29 to HECTOR (A.M.C.) only. On relief of KINGSTON, HECTOR (A.M.C) is to proceed at best speed to Aden and complete fuel.
(C.in C. E.I. 1302Z/30 to HECTOR).

KINGSTON. Departure 1410Z/31 KINGSTON for B.N.F.I.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 1412Z/30).

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

Troop Transport

Re DOMINION MONARCH, CHRISTIAN HUYGENS, HIGHLAND CHIEFTAIN, HIGHLAND PRINCESS, WINDSOR CASTLE, EMPRESS OF AUSTRALIA, ORMONDE (D.S.T., 1808/30 to C. in C's E.I. and S.A.) See Operations Volume.

B.S.F. 1. Suez Canal closed

S.B.N.O. Suez. Canal Area's 1255/30. Closing of canal will prevent CHRISTIAN HUYGENS and probably DOMINION MONARCH joining B.S.F. one, former will sail in S.U. one also latter if unable to catch B.S.F. one. (S.S.T.O. Egypt, 1923/30 to C. in C., E.I.)

China

Raider

No Pacific Raider information except that Swedish ship OSCAR GORTHON reported sighting armed raider with prizes in 18° N 147° E., at 0300/27. Believed bogus report designed to scare Allied shipping. (C.O.I.S. Singapore, 02152/30)

Thain and Indo-China dispute

C. in C., China, 09432/30, to Admiralty.

QUEEN ELIZABETH

A.S. Singapore's 0346/22. QUEEN ELIZABETH should be sailed for Sydney on completion of trials. (D. of S.T. 1049/30 to R.A. Malaya)

America & West Indies

Bunkering of Oil-Fired Ships

Why have naval authorities instructed oil-burning merchant ships bound through Panama Canal to bunker at Canal ports instead of at Curacao as formerly, observing that Curacao affords more economical facilities. (D.T.D. 1056/30 to C. in C., A.W.I.,)

U.S. Navy

Request for information. (S.N.O. Curacao to C. in C., A.W.I., 1305/30) See Operations Volume.

/Submarine.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

Submarine for A/S training	Earnestly request reconsideration my 1023/20/11. If impossible to spare submarine O15 is there any possibility of an older submarine being detached from R.N. for this purpose?. This summer we must train crews of over 140 new construction A/S fitted vessels. Without a submarine the training is severely handicapped. (C.N.S., Canada, 1141/30 to Admty.)
ASAKA	Instructions in Admty 1349/27 are provisional pending further consideration by F.O. and receipt of assurances from Japanese. (Head of M. 1417/30 to N.A. Tokyo)
TACHEE	Your 1602/29. Admiralty's 1938/10/10 was not acted on as signal letters arrived Sydney reading VWBJ, Master was given "orders" or "instructions" in accordance with Admiralty's 1741/29/11 to C.O.A.C. Halifax repeated N.C.S.O. Sydney, Cape Breton. (1506/30)
HIROKAW MARU	Additional to my 1634/29/1. HIROKAW MARU taken over by Japanese Government A.1. other Japanese Lines report similar conditions existing in all Japanese Lines, sailings are being cancelled and Government is Commandeering ships B. 2. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1516/30) Comment by N.I.D. The only explanation of this action that can be suggested is that Japan is preparing for some abnormal movement or enterprise.
SS HIE (Japanese)	My 1306/26 Meier is merchant officer ex German ship PRIWALL (S.O.I. Jamaica, 1722/30 to Admty., etc.,)
N.Z. Transports Escorts	N.Z.N.B. 05122/29 being passed to you. If it is decided cover for these ships is necessary, estimated that escort should be provided for whole of passage.

/Before....

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

N.Z. Transports, Escorts. (Contd.)

Before I ask for Admty decision please remark on following proposal - ought PRINCE HENRY and PRINCE ROBERT based at Esquimalt to undertake escort from Suva to Vancouver or commence with PRINCE HENRY for Aorbagi trip in April. This will involve abandonment of West Coast of South America patrol except for occasional visit of a ship from Caribbean.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1821/30 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

LETITIA.

LETITIA sailing Halifax Nova Scotia 31/1. January. (Route)ETA Hamper Halifax 5/2.
(F.O. Iceland 1833/30 to Admty).

SAGAMI MARU, suspicious arms cargo.

Japanese SAGAMI MARU reported to be carrying 6" shell and other ammunition consigned to Bolivia. As it is believed that Bolivia has ordered no ammunition this cargo may be destined for German Merchant vessels on West Coast of S. America. This ship should be carefully watched and anything suspicious reported.
(D.D.I.C. 1850/30 to N.A. Santiago, Chile).

Examination Service.

Your 1012/25.
Examination of passengers is a function of the Contraband Control Service and full control should therefore be in your hands. Full reply to your 1012/25 will be made shortly.
(D.E.W.D. 1945/30 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

Australia.

ADELAIDE.

ADELAIDE departed Brisbane 0732Z/29 for Nauru and Ocean Islands.
(A.C.N.B. 0445Z/30 to Admty, etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia. (Contd.)

U.S.10. Anticipate U.S.10 will not arrive at Colombo before 5/4/41.
(A.C.N.B. 0550/30, to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

New Zealand.

MONOWAI, AORANGI. Departure Auckland 2345Z/1 MANOWAI escorting AORANGI.
(S.O.(I) Wellington, 0130Z/30 to Admty etc.)

HOBART. Arrival Wellington 0218Z/30 HOBART wearing flag of F.O.C.A.S.
(N.Z.N.B. 0251/30 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND. Sailed 0220 G.M.T. 30/1. PRINCE ROBERT informed.
(S.O.(I) Kingston 0247/30 to Admty).

BABITONGA, DRESDEN. A.3. possibility of German ships sailing from here during week-end.
(N.C.S.O.)(Santos 0943/30 to S.O.(I) Freetown.)

Following received from Santos (A.3.)
Possibility of German ship sailing from Santos during week-end.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1821Z/30 to S.A.Division)
May refer to BABITONGA or DRESDEN.
(D.S.514).

NORBURG. Istanbul 29/1. Departure NORBURG.
(N.C.S.O. Istanbul 1524/30).

MAURO CROCE. Departure 29/1 MAURO CROCE.
(Barcelona 1615/30).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SONTAY. Vichy French ship SONTAY has been anchored in Inner Anchorage and Naval armed guard relieved by one supplied by Fortress Commander.
(N.L.O. Durban 1101/30 to Admty etc.)

Your 2256/29 Personnel on board (numbers). All sick are being invalided from Far East. Naval Personnel are all demobolised reservists from Saigon. Nomative troops on board. Brief summary of cargo. Original hostile attitude of Captain and Senior Officers now friendly and helpful but resigned. Medical assistance and stores not required at present. Captain much concerned about quick repatriation of invalided personnel.
(HERMES 1700/30 to Admty).

PIERRE L.D. Intercepted air letter. PIERRE L/D will leave Marseilles 1/2. Destination unstated possibly Indo China.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 2223/30 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

S.C.19 (attacked 29/1).

Arrived 054° 56'N., 018° 46'W at 2300. My 0803. Searched vicinity no reply to rocket. Intend wider search daybreak. If negative intend to proceed 055° 00'N., 017° 00'W. assumed course of boat and commencing southward Search thence with direction of advance 090° .
(ANEMONE. 0100/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

W.B. WALKER (torpedoed 29/1).

W.B.WALKER is not to be sunk.
(C.in C. W.A. 0831/30 to ANTHONY).

Condition of WALKER unchanged. Position 056° 00'N., 016° 05'W St. Helens now bearing 155° 4 miles from Bow. Am returning to Greenock at 20 knots ARAB at 10 knots. Lat. 56° 00' Long. 16° 05' (Weather).
(ANTHONY 1000/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

If assistance of both TENACITY and SAINT OLAVES is not required to tow in BARON RENFREW one tug is to be sent to assistance of W.B.WALKER broken in half in position 055° 59' N., 015° 51' W. Both halves salvable. CANDYTUFT to report action taken.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1015/30 to CANDYTUFT, TENACITY, ST. OLAVES).

Your 1157 proceeding to position. E.T.A. 1800.
(ANTHONY 1230/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1930/29. If engines permit you should attempt to salvage Tanker W.D.WALKER broken in halves in position 55° 59'N., 15° 51' W. Both halves salvageable. Report action taken.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/30 to RESTIVE).

Your 1230. Engineer reports imperative reach port. Engine in very bad state, liable to break down completely.
(RESTIVE 1535/30). Your 1535. Return to Cambeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock to RESTIVE). (1740/30).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Ships Attacked. (Contd.)

Your 1153/30. Have searched 10 miles to southwards and 10 miles to westwards of position given, visibility very good, have found nothing. In view of fuel situation and injuries to survivors from WALKER am returning to harbour.
(ANTHONY 1920/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

URLA (torpedoed 29/1

Your 1335/29 S.L. 62 8 hours early course and speed 075 degs. 9 knots. SIRIUS picked up boat load of survivors from URLA at 0730.(weather report)
(MALLOW, 1150/30 to C.in C. W.A.)
URLA has sunk.
(D.S.514 31/1).

Submarines Reported.

0056. By D/F on 9470 kc/s at 0056/30. U/Boat was in approx. 55° 40'N., 22° W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 0150/30).

0900. Submarine sighted 0900/30 ten miles north of St. Miguel Azores. This may be H.M.S. OTUS.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2322/30 to Ships.)

1130. By D/F on 8500 kc/s. at 1130 B.S.T. position of Italian U/B was approx. 52 N., 17 W. Probably homeward bound. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1233/30).

1257. By D/F on 12700 kc/s. at 1257 B.S.T. unknown enemy unit, probably U/Boat was in position 56° N., 21° 40'W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1337/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1432. 47° 52'N., 50° 34'W. SHEAFCROWN, submarine sighted suspicious.
(Portishead W/T 1432/30).

1918. 54° N., 18° W. indefinite position of German U/B.
(D.S.514).

Estimate one German U/Boat North of Faeroes bound for Norway.
(F.O.(S) 1539/30 to Subs. on Patrol Area "A".)

0900/30. Unknown submarine 10 miles North of Island of San Migual Azores (A.1).
(N.A. Lisbon 1814/30 to Admty).

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.

German.

1 North of Faeroes bound for Norway.
1 within 100 miles radius of 58° N., 30° W.
1 within 30 miles radius of 55° 40'N. 22° W. at 0056/30.
1 within 40 miles radius of 56° N., 13° W.
1 about 49° N., 9° W. bound for Lorient.
1 in Bay is Biscay bound for Lorient from S.W.
1 near Azores patrolling.
Possibly 1 near Cape Verde Islands.

Italian.

Possibly 1 near Canaries.
2 in Bay of Biscay one of them bound for Gironde.
1 within 40 miles radius of 52 N., 17 W. at 1130/30 homeward bound.
2 between 53° N., and 56° N., 16° W. and 19° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1321/30).

MOST SECRET.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Your 1755 (HAVELOCK and HESPERUS to hunt for submarine). Not received. HESPERUS is at present at Loch Ewe.
(HESPERUS to hunt for submarine).
(HESPERUS, 0250/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Request ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON may proceed with despatch to position 4.8 miles Butt of Lewis 028° to hunt submarine reported damaged by BUTTERMERE. Aircraft from Stornaway are co-operating at daylight. Acknowledge.
(A.C.O.S. 0500/30 to R.A.M.L.)

Proceed with despatch to hunt S/M in position 4.8 miles Butt of Lewis 028 degrees reported damaged by BUTTERMERE. Air co-operation is being provided from daylight by Stornoway.
(A.C.O.S. 0750/30 to HESPERUS.)

Your 0750. My E.T.A. in the position indicated 1220.
(HESPERUS 1045/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Buoy position in which submarine was last seen if you have not done so already. When Destroyers ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON arrive give them all the information that you have and then proceed to Stornoway for sadic repairs. WINDERMERE remain with destroyers. Report when you are relieved by Destroyer. ST. ALBANS acknowledge.
(A.C.O.S. 1050/30 to BUTTERMERE).

Departure HESPERUS.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea 1056/30 to A.C.W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Port W.A. departures 0945/30 ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON to hunt U/Boat reported by BUTTERMERE then to provide A/S escort for CHITRAL inwards from 15° 20'W.
(R.A.M.L. 1106/30 to Admty).

One Anson from Stornoway co-operating in search taking off 1145 A.C.O.S. pass to BUTTERMERE.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1110/30 to HESPERUS, HAVELOCK, ST. ALBANS, CHARLESTON, BUTTERMERE.)

On arrival of BUTTERMERE request you closely question Captain and give me your opinion whether a U/Boat has been sunk, damaged or is a myth. I particularly wish to know how many of crew saw the U/Boat and "What they saw".
(A.C.O.S. 1225/30 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway.)

BUTTERMERE reports last in contact at 1600/29 when submarine appeared to sink on its beam end.
(HESPERUS 1300/30 to A.C.O.S.)

Please see HAVELOCK 0201/30 and HESPERUS 0250/30. In an endeavour to get these 2 ships who were in the vicinity Cape Wrath to Hydra the U/Boats attacked BUTTERMERE at 1515 I made my 1755/29 which was repeated to you and 3 other signals which were broadcasting on H.D. routine at 1628, 1729, 1806, and 1827 B.S.T. with series numbers 295 H.D. 303 H.D. 304 H.D. and 305 H.D. It appears that HESPERUS and HAVELOCK did not receive these signals although they were in area A. This resulted in a delay of about 12 hours in getting any destroyers on to the scene of action.
(A.C.O.S. 1514/30 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

30.1.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Attacked.

Destroyers are to continue to hunt and if possible identify position of wreck.
(A.C.O.S. 1555/30 to HESPERUS).

I believe there is a very good chance that you destroyed a U/Boat yesterday. Well done in any case.
(A.C.O.S. 2300/30 to BUTTERMERE).

MOST SECRET

31.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

H.M.Tug SALVONIA was prevented by rifle fire from the shore, from boarding SS PANDION (damaged by air attack 28/1) in Lough Swilly this afternoon.

Search for SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU

All the forces engaged have now returned to Scapa; and, after considering C.S. 15's report of having sighted an unknown vessel, C. in C., H.F. thinks it unlikely that any enemy ship was seen.

British Air Activity

Owing to bad weather Bomber Command carried out no offensive operations last night or today. Operations by Coastal Command were greatly curtailed today.

Enemy Air Activity

The British GRASLIN was attacked in Convoy F.S. 97 off Harwich at 1015 this morning; and at 1425 Convoy F.N. 96 was machine gunned there by A/C which were seen to drop Parachute Mines. But no damage to ships is reported.

At 0920 this morning the Belgian OLYMPIER is reported to have been again attacked by A/C about 100 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland; and a Corvette has been sent to investigate the reported sinking of an unknown ship at 1250 today by A/C about 290 miles W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland.

Norwegian SS KILHAUG reported that she was attacked early this morning, 5 miles south of Lands End and shot down his attacker.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

At Milford Haven two Motor Launches were damaged this morning by the near explosion of an Acoustic Mine; 2 ground mines and 1 Red Mine in all were detonated; and the Port was closed at 1116 probably until next Monday.

In the Thames Estuary and the Harwich Area a number of mines were seen to drop from aircraft at various times during the day, 2 of which detonated on striking the water; a sweep of the area is to be carried out at daylight tomorrow.

2 M/V's from convoy H.X. 103, originally reported torpedoed off North Rona Island, are now believed to have been sunk by mines.

SS BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN from Convoy H.X. 103 were reported torpedoed today off North Rona Island, but it was later considered that they were mined.

Shipping and Convoys

Admiralty have ordered every endeavour to be made to ensure that S.L.S and H.G. portions join during the homeward passage. S.L.S. 61 remained unescorted to its destination although only 30 miles astern of H.G. 50 at position X.

Commenting on Admiralty 1832/30 (procedure for stragglers) C. in C., Western Approaches considers that the principal causes of straggling are beyond the control of masters and engine room personnel. He recommends a larger margin of time allowed for the ocean passage of homeward convoys before arriving at the rendezvous, and deprecates penalising masters for shortcomings they cannot control.

/The firing.....

MOST SECRET

31.1.1941.
Friday

War Diary

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping and Convoys-Contd.

The firing of rockets by merchant ships to indicate hostile air attack is to be discontinued

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Force — F.O.C.N.A., draws attention to the scarcity of vessels at Gibraltar during the absence of Force H., and asks for submarines, M.T.B's and other small craft.

Lisbon Patrol — F.O.C.N.A. suggests, while GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST are unlocated, withdrawing the Lisbon trawler patrol to supplement that west of Gibraltar, but Admiralty consider this unnecessary.

Mediterranean

Operation "Result" — S.O.Force H (RENOWN, MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 10 destroyers left Gibraltar at 1315 today for Operation "Result"

Dutch tanker DESMOULER carrying light oil to Greece was torpedoed at 0400 today, possibly by a destroyer or E-Boat, in position 35° 31' N., 25° 34' E., and was towed to Suda Bay by DAINTY with her cargo undamaged.

Air Attack on Tripoli — R.A.F. attacked Tripoli harbour tonight, causing damaged amongst seaplanes and shipping. Two merchant ships were hit and a third was possibly damaged. Damage was also caused to the port installations.

/HUNTLEY.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

31.1.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

HUNTLEY
Sunk

HUNTLEY was sunk this afternoon 30 miles west of Mersa Matruh, possibly by aircraft torpedoes.

Hospital Ship
DORSETSHIRE
Bombed

Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE was bombed this evening in the Gulf of Sollum.

An Egyptian transport from Sollum conveying Italian prisoners was bombed and driven ashore near Sidi Barrani. The prisoners panicked and several are reported to be killed or missing.

America & West Indies

The German ship PORTLAND left Talcahuano today.

U-Boat Campaign

BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN from convoy H.X. 103 were reported torpedoed off North Rona Island this morning, although C. in C., Western Approaches suggests the damage may be from our own mines.

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MOST SECRET.

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

Mar Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Dolion.

H/C. Flotilla Dispositions.

Your H/H/3 023/41. Concur in proposed redispositions, subject to ships of 1st. H/S F having an adequate H.A. Armament, observing air attacks now occur more often that not when these vessels are operating in Harwich area. Vessels of 6th H/S have one and in some cases two quadruple"2" Type mountings,in addition to their main armament. The departure of HARRIER and GOSSAMER for Scapa immediately 1st. H/S F leaves that port will deplete the number available at Harwich and should a further contact minefield of such dimensions as to impede traffic be laid in this area, it might be necessary for the 1st. H/S.F. to abandon FRINCH operation and proceed to Harwich.(C. in C. Nore 1130/31 to Adty.)

Mech Patrol.

Your 1423/24. The Mech Patrol has been transferred from King's Lynn to Boston Number Sub Command, today.(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1159/31, to C. in C. Nore.)

Troop Convoys.

Instructions for A/S escorts.

Experience of escorting special troop convoys shows that special instructions are necessary for the conduct of the A/S escort in the event of attack by U-Boat, aircraft or surface raider. Suggested primary object of A/S escort is the protection of the convoy and secondary object the destruction of U-Boats. Propose that S.O. of Destroyers should promulgate instructions for each particular operation informing the ocean escort in case modification is necessary. If you concur request you will promulgate this decision. (A.C.N.S.T. 1358/31, to C. in C. H.F. and C. in C. W.A.

/DELUGE.....

MOST SECRET.

M. 1. 41.
FRIDAY.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DENMARK. At 1150/31. (D.C. 1159/31.)
At 2330/31. (D.C. 2349/31.)

Defence of Orkneys and Shetlands. A.L.M. 01108/41 of 30/1/41.
Detailed remarks. (A.C.O.S. 1616/31.)
See Operations Volume.

Movements

ORBITHIAN
CAVINA. Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N. F. 1526/30/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0817/31.)

CALIFORNIA. Sailed in accordance with F.O.C.N.F. 1556/29. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1024/31.)

LETITIA
CHITRAL. Arrived and fuelled. CHITRAL sailed 0800 G.M.T. in accordance with 1830/24 from F.O.C.N.F. (F.O. Iceland 1100/31.)

FURIOUS.
MARTINS. My 1831/30. Owing to delay in sailing of Force F, ships to proceed from 58° 10' N. 22° 23' W. to 60° N. 21° 30' W. and thence as in my 1830/28. (C. in C. W.A. 1823/31.)

PRETORIA
CASTLE.
KELLY.
KIPLING. 628. (1) My 1537/27 and my 1225/31 to Supt. (2)6. PRETORIA CASTLE, KELLY, KIPLING are to R/V in 500° Inverse Head 5 miles at 1550/2, and proceed through following positions, to pass Rob at 0300/3 unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C. 1st. B.S. (3) C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail KELLY, KIPLING for Plymouth at dark/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1343/31.)

HAKIDO
ECLIPSE
NAPIER. My 2031/30. HAKIDO and ECLIPSE proceed at 0800/2. Amend time of R/V as follows (B) 1600/3. B.S.T. (X) 0730/4. B.S.T.

/If NAPIER.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements., . . contd.

If HAFLER cannot reach Greenock by P.M./C, she is to proceed Londonderry unless otherwise ordered by C. in C. W.A. (R.A.D.H.F. 1447/31.)

Destroyers off North Rona.

Two Destroyers sent from Scapa to vicinity of North Rona have been ordered not to enter. Q.Z.X.170. (C. in C. H.F. 1457/31 to C. in C. Rosyth.)

BEAGLE.
KEPPEL.

Return to Scapa. (C. in C. H.F. 1530/31.)

JACKAL.

Has been ordered to join you at R/V K. She is to be detached to Londonderry on passing. (C. in C. W.A. 1613/31 to MUNDUNG.)

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines occupied to-night. 6 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1619/31.)

ASSINIBOINE.

Sailed for Cardiff. N.T.A. 1000/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1650/31.)

F.O.I.C. Cardiff's 0953/31. ASSINIBOINE sailed not in possession of F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1116/31. (Milford Haven Port closed by Mines.) (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1703/31 to F.O.I.C. Milford Haven.)

KEPPEL.

Proceed passing Switha 0630 tomorrow to R/V with CALIFORNIA in 270° Cape Wrath 19 at 1500/1. (11) Provide escort to 060° 40' N. 015° W. Thence return to Scapa. (R.A.D.H.F. 1846/31 to KEPPEL.)

MOST SECRET.

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Search for SCHARNHORST, and GNEISENAU.

Investigation of C.S.15's report of sighting unknown ships produces evidence that is far from conclusive. Snow squall made visibility and R D/F conditions patchy and liable to be misleading. (ii) There is a small possibility that, if a fast enemy vessel was present, she could have worked round to northward and then to westward without being detected. (iii) I consider it unlikely that an enemy ship was present. (C. in C. H.F. 0027/31 to Adty.)

Operation N.C.

Will be carried out zero hour 0015/1. (V.A. Dover 1439/31.)

Ships off Kinnaird Head.

Investigate number of ships reported in vicinity of Kinnaird Head at 2130 steering S.E. Do not delay your passage unduly. (C. in C. Rosyth 2154/31 to FLEETWOOD, and 2206/31 to MEXHILL.)

Submarines

Positions.

At 0800/1, and movements for the following 24 hours.(F.O.S.1746/31.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Sunderland A/C from Sullom Voe will carry out A/S search of Triangular Area 60° 45'N 2° 35' E. 61° 15'N. 1° W. 61° 55' N. 0° 12' E, leaving Firth position at 0845. Patrol UNST will not be flown.(C. in C. Rosyth 0132/31.)

945. Following additional patrols ordered today STAB, HORNLI, I.P.C.P.- a.m. and p.m. (C. in C. Rosyth 0940/31, to C. in C. H.F.)
946. My 0940/31. Patrol HORNLI cancelled. (C. in C. Rosyth 1048/31.)

/Outn A/C.....

MOST SECRET.

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Own A/C. attacked 18/1.

A.104. 31/1. Your 0015/26 re attack on Wellington at Lowestoft Harbour 18/1. Pilots and Routeing Officers are hereby reminded of the necessity for avoiding areas indicated in S.D.188 Part 1 paragraph 34, Sections 1 and 2 but Naval Authorities should be prepared to accept the occasional presence of friendly aircraft in bad weather or under emergency conditions. (Air Ministry F.O. b. 1700/31 to Adty.)

Enemy Air Activity.

EIKHAUG.

(Norwegian 1456 Tons.) Attacked by aircraft five miles South Lands End. (EIKHAUG 0741/31.)

Master reports when 5 miles S. of Lands End, he was attacked by a Junkers 88. Plane was shot down in flames ahead of ship. Chief Officer wounded and landed in hospital. Not dangerous. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1636/31.)

CONVOY H.N. Even.

Fighter aircraft are being sent to assist. (Lyness W/T 0913/31.)

OLYMPIER.

(Belgian, 5266 Tons) Attacked by aircraft in 56° 4' N. 11° W. (Lyness W/T 0928/31.)

BARON RENFREW.

TENACITY only Tug now searching. Report if contact has been made. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1057/31 to CANDYTUFT.)

Located BARON RENFREW 1200 056° 54' N. 012° 33' W. Crew have abandoned BARON RENFREW. Weather unfavourable for boarding yet. Standing by. (TENACITY 1144/31.)

/ORASLIN.....

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

GRAGLIN (Convoy F.S.97.)

(British, 2393 Tons.) Attacked aircraft off Sunk Light Vessel, 1613/31. (North Foreland 1140/31.)

Proceed immediately to assist near B 6 Buoy and order her to proceed to Harwich. (C. in C. Nore 1541/31 to SNAPDRAGON.)

Convoy F.N. Odd.

Being attacked by aircraft, in 51° 34' N. 1° 8' E.(Nore W/T 1303/31.)

Enemy R/C machine-gunned Convoy and dropped 8 large Cylinders. (VIMIERA 1304/31 to C. in C. Nore. See Mining.

Convoy F.N. Even.

Fighters have left for Convoy Agent. (C. in C. Nore 1456/31 to VIMIERA.)

Restrictions on A/A Gun Attacks on Enemy A/C.

It is understood that at about 0930/27 under conditions of 10/10 cloud at 1000 ft, an enemy aircraft dropped two heavy H.E. bombs from 500 ft. near VICTORIOUS (Tyne). 2. Report continues that A.A. guns defences had enemy aircraft under aim for at least 15 seconds before bombs were dropped, but fire was not opened as enemy aircraft was not "identified" as hostile and had not committed hostile act". 3. Existing orders by A.A.Command under provision of S.D. 158, impose such restrictions on A.A. guns that Authorities responsible for ordering fire will not do so on doubtful targets for fear of endangering friendly aircraft. This must result in enemy aircraft not being engaged and being able to attack without opposition. 4. Until new edition of S.D.158 is published, request consideration be given to implementing the recommendations in decision No. 6 of Inter-Service Recognition Committee 8th meeting held on 10/12/41. (A.C.N.S.H. 1513/31 to Air Ministry.)

MOST SECRET.

31. 1. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Fawley Oil-Depot.

As a result of dive bombing attack at 1510 today, following damage has been sustained at A.C.W.I. oil Depot. (F.O.I.C. Southampton 1805/31.)

PANDION.

While preparing Salving PANDION our boarding party met with(heavy opposition) from Ashore. Still anchored Loch Swilly awaiting your instructions. (SALVONIA 1820/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.) SALVONIA is to keep clear of PANDION until further orders. (C. in C. W.A. 2306/31, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

644. Cancel my 2306. (C. in C.W.A. 2319/31 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

Your 1820/31. Irish Authorities contacted and salvage can proceed. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2317/31 to SALVONIA.)

Mining.

ST. ALBANS. (Destroyer.)

A.M.1209/7 paragraphs 4 and 5 and C. in C. W. A. 1643/31. In view of A.M. 1749/28 and R.A.D.'s 1038/30 request ST.ALBANS may be retained until relieved by ST. MARYS about the end of February. My 1456/30 not to all addressees was made on the assumption that St. ALBANS will be available. (R.A.M.L. 1042/31 to Adty.)

S. M. 7.

R.A.M.L. 0021/30 and 1456/30 concur. (C. in C. H.F. 1046/31.)

My 0021/30. Particulars of Operation. (R.A.M.L. 1612/31 to Adty.) See Operations Volume.

Milford Haven. M.L.165 damaged. 3 Mines exploded M.L.162 damaged.

Port closed owing to Mines. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1116/31.)

/M.L.165 has .....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

M.L. 165 has been damaged by accustic mine in entrance this morning. It is not considered any ship should enter Milford Haven until sweeping can be carried out by trawler with S.A.Gear. This will probably be 3/2.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1117/31.)
Following 2 Casualties in M.L.165. One serious. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1544/31.)

M.L.165 badly damaged by near explosion of accoustic mine. Vessel has been brought up harbour and will be beached at high water. M.L. 162 starboard engine damaged by same mine.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1639/31.) One red mine detonated by single L (FAR) in 180 Great Castle Head Low Light 5.3 cables. Two ground mines detonated in positions. 075° St. Anns Head Light 8.8 cables. 094° St. Anns Head Light 7 cables. These two mines exploded close to M.L.165 and M.L.162 whilst proceeding in company out of harbour.(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1740/31.)

Thames Estuary.

Group officer reports one red mine detonated by LL.Trawlers, in 210 South Oaze buoy 2½ cables.(Capt. M/S. Sheerness 1830/31.)

Enemy aircraft machine gunned convoy dropped 3 large cylinders attached to parachutes close B 4 buoy approximate position 2 cables south and .5 cables West. (VIMIERA 1304/31, to C. in C.Nore)

Convoy AGENT being bombed in 51° 42' N. 1° 20' E. (VIMIERA 1425/31.)

Cancel my 1428. Enemy laying mines. (VIMIERA 1434/31.)

/Merchant .....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Merchant ship reports enemy aircraft dropping mines near B.5 buoy astern Convoy. (VALOROUS 1446/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

Eighteen Mines observed dropped by aircraft in Barrow Deep and Harwich Area today in following rough positions. Two others dropped in vicinity of B.8. Buoy detonated a few seconds after striking surface. (C. in C. Nore 1717/31.)

ATHELDUKE.
(Mined 17/1.)

My 1150/17. Has now been placed in Avonmouth Docks. (H.O.I.C.Cardiff 1346/31.)

Harwich
Area Sweep
by GOSSAMER.

Requesting fighter protection for s sweep near B.8 buoy from daylight to 0915/1/2 by GOSSAMER, and TORNADO. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1507/31.)

My 1507/31. SUTTON will join GOSSAMER at daylight and act as A/A escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1749/31.)

River Tay
Dundee
open.

L.L. Sweeping in Approaches to River Tay and over Bar completed. Nothing found. Port of Dundee is now open. (H.O.I.C. Dundee 1527/31, C. in C. Rosyth 1629/31.)

BOTUSK
(British,
3091 Tons.)
EMMA/TLEIN.
(Dutch,
5436 Tons.)

From Convoy H.K.103, reported torpedoed off North Rona Island. WHITEHALL, 1600/31, reports considered sinking caused by mines. (See U-Boat CAMPAIGN, Ships Attacked.)

Operation
F.D.29.

Re Extension of northern limit. (F.O.S. 2008(31) See Operations Volume.

/Operation E.A.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Operation E.A.

By ARETHUSA, AURORA, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, and 2 Destroyers. Intend sail 2/2 and lay about 0200/4. Code word HEAVY. Details. (C. in C. H.F. 2234/31.) See Operations Volume.

Enemy Intelligence.

GNEISENAU.

My 1241/28. One heavy ship believed GNEISENAU, escorted by unknown number of Destroyers sighted off Swedish West Coast of Skagerack southbound 24/1. Graded B.2. (N.A. Stockholm 1226/31 to Adty.) (D.D.I.C. 1745/31 to Ships.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F. at 0327/31 B.S.T. and at 1042/31 B.S.T. suggest enemy unit within 300 miles of 45° N. 38° W. It is possible this is a surface ship. (D.D.I.C. 1248/31.)

Main Enemy Units.

My 0847/31. Only 1 SCHLESIEN Class Battleship present. (D.D.I.C.1505/31.)

Ships off Kinnaird Head.

Number of ships reported near Kinnairds Head at 2130/31. Composition and course unknown. (C. in C. Rosyth 2306/31, to NAVNELL.)

Miscellaneous

Rescue Tugs Crews refuse duty.

United Towing Company inform me that crews refuse to carry out Rescue Tug duty. No Rescue Tug is therefore available in Humber. (F.O. Humber 1454/31 to Admty.)

Your 1454/31 request further information as to reasons and proposed action. (C. in C. Nore 1705/31 to F.O.I.C. Humber.)

/Ships not.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous Contd.

Ships not receiving Signals.

Your 1614/30. Explanation.(C. in C. W.A. 1949/31 to A.C.C.S.)

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

M.L.1029. Keep look out for M/L 1029 who sailed Padstow 0800/30 for Fishguard. Last communication at 1140/30. (C. in C. W.A. 0827/31.)

OURAGAN. Your 1906/30. My condenser is leaking badly. Returning to Liverpool. (OURAGAN 0920/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

SANDHILL. Standing by SANDHILL abandoned. Crew ashore returning by Newcastle lefeboat. O.K. for towing.(SCHELDE 1025/31 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool.)

If ship is seaworthy she should be towed into Bangor Bay Belfast, where you will be relieved of tow. On completion return to Campbeltown. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1250/31 to SCHELDE).

Am towing ship into Belfast. E.T.A. daylight tomorrow. (SCHELDE 1405/31, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

PASS OF LENY. Temporary repairs to enable ship to proceed repairs port will be completed to-morrow. Ship has no rudder and main engine can not be used. Request 1 Tug may be arranged earliest possible. (C.S.V.O. Lyness 1920/31 to A.C.O.S.)

RESTIVE. Arrived Campbeltown Tug RESTIVE with engine defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1253/31.)

Enemy Pontoon. Steel Pontoon apparently base of German rescue float found 3/4 mile E. of Selsey Bill, brought to Selsey Lifeboat slipway 1100/30.(C. in C. Portsmouth 1240/31.)

LA CAPRICIEUSE. Your 1139/31. Tug will meet you and tow you in.

/ORKENFINCH.....

MOST SECRET.

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CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

GREENFINCH. (Observation Minelayer) Will be sailed for Southampton a.m. tomorrow for repair of leaks in after peak tank. (VERNON 1700CM/31 to F.O.I.C. Southampton.)

Torpedo Gear at Sunderland. Torpedo tubes and torpedoes at Sunderland badly damaged by heavy weather. Am arranging repairs to tubes locally. New torpedoes will be required. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1728/31.)

VESLE KARI. (Norwegian) Sheltered Dunnet Bay since 1700/30. Considerable damage due to weather including W/T. Repairing her Kirkwall estimated date of sailing 4/2. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1900/31.)

BELGIA. Salvage operations on S.S. BELGIA, ashore one mile S.W. Frinton Pier, will commence at 0800 tomorrow. Intend sailing rescue tugs ST.HELLO/S and KENIA at 1030 so as to arrive and commence towing the ship at about 1330 and arriving Harwich at about 1730. QUEEN EMPRESS detailed to act as A/A escort throughout the operation. Request fighter protection.(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1906/31 to C. in C. Nore.)

MACGREGOR LAIRD. Have searched the area 050° 53' N. 022° 46' W, unsuccessfully. Request further instructions. (NORTHERN SPRAY 2000/31.)

SNAR. (Norwegian, 3176 Tons.) On ground Little Cumbrae. Send assistance as soon as possible. Leak forepeak. (Port Patrick Radio 2145/31.)

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys. P.S.99.	73 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne,0926/31.)
O.B.O. 280.	Sailed 0640/31/1 escort CAMELLIA, 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1031/31.)
O.B.C. 281.	(A). 2100/1,(B), Not known,(C).30. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1045/31.)
W.N.77.	My 1935/29, (ULLSWATER and PAYNTER escorting 11 ships.) and 1641/30, amend number of ships to read 9. Add to my 1659/30,and 1721/30.(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1049/31, to C. in C. W.A,)
O.B.Routes.	C. in C. W.A. 0250/31/1. Request in future that routes of O.B. Convoys may be repeated to me. (F.O.C.N.P.1101/31, to admty.)
WN.75.	Part 2 arrived 1100/31. (N.C.S.O.Methil, 1124/31.)
E.N.64.	058° 43' N. 003° 05' W, at 1110. (A.C.O.S.1149/31.)
S.M.V.'s.	SNAPDRAGON and 3 M.V.'s left Southend 0900 for Harwich.E.T.A. 1730/31. (C. in C. Nore, 1200/31.)
F.N.96.	0930/31. 24 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1217/31.)
O.B.283. W.S.6.	Owing to sailing date of O.B.283, clashing with W.S.6. and state of tide it will be impracticable to sail both on same day. Request O.B.283 may be deferred one day.(N.C.S.O.Mersey 1255/31.

/E.N.63.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

E.N.63. All four ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1303/31.)

O.B.280. O.B.280 sailed 1405/30. 8 ships 7½ knots. 2 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1329/31.)

W.N.77. Passed 058° N, Speed made good 5.5 knots. E.T.A, Dunnet Head (?) 1000/1, Route P from ULLSWATER. (Escorting Sloop, 1430/31, to A.C.O.S.)

F.S.100. Sailed 1400/31, 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1631/31.)

E.N.Code. A.F.O.S.2/41. Add to list of convoys Loch Ewe portion of E.N convoy, code word SLEEVE. (D.S.D.1547/31, A.Z. message.)

F.S.97. Arrived except ORASLIN (damaged) and SANFRY. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1603/31.)

F.N.95. Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I/C. Tyne, 1643/31.)

F.S.100. 3 Ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1706/31.)

F.N.96. 3 ships from Humber joining at 62 D buoy all for North of Blyth. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1708/31. Amended 0013/1.)

WN.77. Loch Ewe section sailed 1545/31. 3 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1710/31.)

O.B.280. In company with ARBUTUS position 055° 25' N. 006° 02' W, no ships for O.B. 280, sighted Consider remainder of Clyde ships have returned. Am rejoining you at ARBUTUS best speed 15 knots. Visibility deteriorating.
(GAILEY, 1750/31, to ARBUTUS.)

/O.B.272.....

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

O.B.272. — My 2150/12 addressed WELLINGTON, ships mentioned have arrived in U.S.A. Was my 2150/12 passed by WELLINGTON to ships concerned in convoy O.B.272?.(D.T.D. 1832/31, to C. in C. W.A.)

F.S.100. — From Tyne Ports Blyth 7, Tyne 7, Sunderland 4, Middlesbrough 2, 3 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (C. in C. Rosyth 2023/31, to VANITY, VORTIGERN.

E.N.65. — (A). 2200/31, (B) H.M.T's BERKSHIRE, FANDANGO, Extra Escort H.M.T.SWORD DANCE, Additional Escort WESTON, (C) 32 ships. 22 with kites.(N.C.S.O. Methil, 2263/31.)

F.S.1. — Sailed 2300/31. 11 ships. (N.C.S.O, Methil, 2351/31.)

W.N.75.
F.N.95.
F.S.100.
E.N.65.
F.S.1. — Rosyth 31/1/1941. Arrivals: JASON and ST. APOLLO with rear portion of WN 75. WOOLSTON and VIVIEN and SOUTHDOWN with FN 95. Departures: VANITY and VORTIGERN with FS.100. BERKSHIRE, FANDANGO and WESTON - latter as additional escort to Pentland Firth and subsequently to Londonderry - with E.N.65 includes SWORD DANCE and CELIA for Tobermory. HOLDERNESS with F.S.1. (C. in C. Rosyth, 2357/31.)

Ocean Convoys.
B.H.X.104. — 24 hours late. (ALAUNIA, 0801/31 to C. in C. W.A.)

S.C.20. — S.C.20, 48 hours late. (RANPURA, 1215/31.).

S.C.19.(?) — Leave Convoy 0600/1, and depart from Lough Foyle. You will be required for Escort duty on completion of fuelling. (C. in C.W.A. 1605/31. to JACKAL.)

/S.L.S.63.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

S.L.S.63.
H.G.52.

If S.L.S.63 is not met at X, you should leave convoy and proceed at 0900/3, 50 miles in the estimated direction of S.L.S.63 and report the position of H.G.52 by bearing and distance from secret position, speed of advance but not course, to Admiralty repeated F.O.C.N.A. and Commodore S.L.S.63 in KINGSWOOD. Then rejoin H.G. Convoy. Commodore S.L.S.63 has been ordered to report repeating to ROCHESTER his position if behind H.G.52, and he does not anticipate being able to catch up within 48 hours. (D.T.D.1825/31 to ROCHESTER.)

Re/ort Groups, Sea Time, H.X. Convoys.

Actual or anticipated absence from base of the escorts of convoys H.X.102, 103 and 104 is 11 days. Time following in harbour is three days only, due to the introduction of convoy B.H.X.104 and the consequent closing of the escort cycle by two days. Probable that during February the average sea-time of escorts of north routed convoys will be 11 days & their harbour time three to five days. This would render proper maintenance and training impossible. Hoped that an extra escort group will be in being by end of February. Meanwhile, proposed that situation should be eased by sailing the North-routed convoys one day later than scheduled, the "Telescope" being abolished on these convoys. (C. in C. W.A.,1843/31, to Admty.)

B.H.X.104.

My 1531/30, B H X 104 24 hours late. (C. in C. W.A. 1909/31 to N.O.i/c, Londonderry.

S.L.S. and H.G. Convoys, importance of joining.

Every endeavour must be made to ensure that S.L.S. and H.G. portions join during the homeward passage and that Admiralty have information whether the junction has taken place.S.L.S.61 remained unescorted to its destination although only 30 miles astern of H.G.50 at X. Ref. A.M. 1903/1 and A.M. 1821/7 (A) H.G. escort should make this report in Merchant Navy Code, repeated to S.L.S. Commodore's ship

/giving.....

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

giving position of her convoy, by bearing and distance from secret position, also speed of advance, but not course. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to arrange retransmission by G.B.M.S. to S.L.S. Commodore's ship at next routine time. Normally the H.G. escort when leaving convoy to make this report should proceed in the estimated direction of the S.L.S. portion, (B) If S.L.S. portion is astern of H.G. and does not anticipate catching it within 48 hours the Commodore of S.L.S. is to break W/T silence and report to Admiralty repeated to F.O.C.N.A, and H.G. escort giving his position by bearing and distance from lettered position, also speed of advance but not course. (D.T.D. 2026/31 to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. S.A.)

MILITARY CONVOYS. Force Z. GEORGIC.

Intend to sail Force Z escorted by KENYA, OTTAWA, RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT, and SKEENA, from Lamlash 2359/31. S.S. GEORGIC joining convoy 1/2 in accordance with F.O.i/c Liverpool 1222/30. (F.O.I.C.Greenock 0437/31.) 621. My 1231/28. Owing to delay in sailing of Force Z. (i) Rendezvous K is to be amended to 054° N. 021° 40' W, at 1600 B.S.T. on 2/2. (ii)Rendezvous Q is to be reached at 1700 B.S.T. on 5/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1325/31.)

General. Procedure for Stragglers.

Your 1832/30, para. 2. Additional escorts are not available from my Command and no prospect is seen of their being available in the near future. Para. 3. Concur for convoys routed south but for those routed through the Minches, the longitude should be 08° 00'W. Considered that the principal causes of straggling are fectors outside the control of

/masters.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

masters and engineroom personnel and that many ships are incapable of maintaining the present speed of convoy throughout a long ocean passage. To overcome difficulty, recommend that a larger margin of time be allowed for the ocean passage of homeward bound convoys before their arrival at the R.V. and that it should be impressed on Commodores that the speed of convoys must be adjusted to prevent straggling. It is important that masters and crews should appreciate that any measures instituted are for the purpose of increasing their safety and not to penalise them for shortcomings over which they may have no control. (C. in C. W.A.,1903/31, to Admty.)

Rockets (Air) Discontinued.

The firing of rockets by merchant ships to indicate an attack by hostile aircraft is to be discontinued. A.M.S.I.3 and N.C.S.I.2, paragraph (d) are cancelled. (D.T.D. 2012/31, "A" Message.)

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

OTUS. — OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A, 1158/31.)

Forces at Gibraltar. — Shortage during absence of Force H. Request for submarines and M.T.B.'s. (F.O.C.N.A. 1258/31 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

Trawlers Patrol, Lisbon. — My 1258/31, If GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST are still not located, for consideration whether the two trawlers of Westn. Patrol off Lisbon should be withdrawn to supplement the look out in Western Approaches to Gibraltar Straits until Force H returns. Misty weather is prevalent. (F.O.C.N.A. 1302/31 to Admty.)

Your 1302/31, In view of A.T.1745/31. It is not considered necessary to withdraw Trawlers. (D.O.D.(F) 2208/31, to F.O.C.N.A.)

Operation "Result". — Gibraltar 1315/31, departure S.O.Force H, in RENOWN MALAYA ARK ROYAL SHEFFIELD FEARLESS FOXHOUND FORESIGHT FURY FIREDRAKE JERSEY JUPITER ISIS ENCOUNTER DUNCAN for "RESULT".(S.O.I.,Gib., 1318/31, to Admty etc.)

Air Report. — Daily Summary Operations. 2 routine A/S. 2 Surfaces reccos. east. 2 Surface reccos. west. 1 Escort to H.M. Ships. Area covered 2° W to 10° W. Flying curtailed owing to weather.(200 Group, 1700/31.)

/Ammunition.....

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

Ammunition. — Re further 15 inch ammunition not included in A.M. 1704/29.
(D.T.S.D. 1727/31 to F.O.C.N.A.).

W/T Traffic. — My 1740/31. Gibralter W/T Station has resumed normal duty. Serious explosion in Army tunnels near underground W/T Station has badly damaged latter. Defect in Power main has been rectified.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1929/31 to Admty etc.).
(Request for W/T traffic for Force H to be routed through Malta W/T Station).

Enemy Units. — 1 Pocket Battleship and 1 Cruiser in position 038° 15'N. 025° 04'W. at 1730 G.M.T. 29/1.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2130/31 to Ships and Authorities North Atlantic).

South Atlantic.

Whale Catchers. — C. in C. South Atlantic 1301/29/12/40. Intend to sail M/S Group 109 consisting of whale catchers SWONA SKUDD 3, 4 and 5 for Durban a.m./2/2. Endurance of group is approx. 2000 miles at 10 knots. Request information whether arrangements can be made for vessels to top up at Lindi or Dar-es-Salaam and complete with fuel and water at Kilindini.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0717/31 to C. in C.E.I).

WAHOI WAHOI. MUNCASTER CASTLE. — Overdue shipping. My 1117/29. WAHOI WAHOI arrived Capetown 1028B/31).

ANTONIS. — Overdue shipping. Greek ANTONIS St. Vincent departure 4/1 due (Charlestown ?) 25/1 has not arrived.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1054/31).

COMORIN. — Your 2232/29/1 it is important that COMORIN should arrive at Freetown on 10/2 if possible for convoy sailing on that date or 11/2.
(C. in C. S.A. 1101N/31 to C. in C. A.W.I).

/NORFOLK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

NORFOLK. DEVONSHIRE. S.L. and W.S.5B. Convoys.	Positions and suggested re-routing of S.L. Convoy. (C. in C. S.A. 1611N/31 to Admty). See Operations Volume.
S.L. 64 and S.L.S. 64.	Absentees (details). My 2047/21/1 does not appear to have been received by Ministry of Shipping. This resulted in several unnecessary signals. (W.C.S.O. Freetown 1300/31 to M. of S.).
Enemy Unit.	D/F bearing indicates enemy (?surface) unit within 300 miles of 034° S. 006° E. at 2317/30 70%. (C. in C. S.A. 1635N/31 to S.A. Stn).
EURYLOCHUS identity of enemy ships.	Your 1200Z/31 confirm that EURYLOCHUS survivors state ship was engaged by Battleship and Cruiser and if considered reliable. (C. in C. S.A. 1647/31 to EULOLO).
EURYLOCHUS EULOLO's report, enemy identity.	EULOLO's 1200/31 (Received corrupt and only partly decyphered) has been decyphered at Freetown as follows (begins). Part one. Survivors of EURYLOCHUS picked up by MONTE TEIDE bound for Buenos Aires state sunk by pocket battleship and cruiser in 0080 15'N. 0250 04'W. at 1730/29. Part 2 follows. EULOLO's 1230/31 states part two cancelled. (C. in C. S.A. 1737N/31 to Admty etc)1
Suspicious Warship.	S.C.S.O. Beira reports British ship sighted small warship at 0700 G.M.T./31 in 022° 40'S. 036° W. steering 180° . Description fits Portuguese sloop PEDRO NUNES. (S.O.I. Capetown 1650/31 to Admty etc).
ASTURIAS. German Ships, Santos.	S.O.(I) Montevideo's 1821/30 (Re German Ship sailing from Santos) Should German ships sail, ASTURIAS is to cover coastal route to the north, cruiser will cover remainder. (R.A.S.A.D. 17272/31 to S.A. Div).

/ASTURIAS.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

ASTURIAS.
fuelling.

ASTURIAS will be due to fuel about mid-February. Hope MENDOZA incident has not made it undesirable for her to visit Rio de Janiero for that purpose.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1749Z/31 to H.M. Ambr. Rio De Janiero).

EURYLOCHUS.

Your 1647 H/31 Master states pocket battleship and cruiser but from further interrogation survivors consider it possible enemy ships were an 8" Cruiser since tripod mast seen and an armed merchant raider or supply ship since stern like GLEN line was seen but both ships are stated to have used heavy guns.
(BULOLO 1905/31 to C. in C. S.A.).

Troop
Transport.

Your 2003/24. Sailing of EMPIRE TROOPER, embarkation of Senegalese Brigade, and sailing with W.S. 6.
(C. in C. S.A. 2183/31 to D. of S.T.).
See Operations Vol.

Freetown
Bunkers.

Ministry of Shipping state 21 ships at Freetown at present requiring 8000 tons coal bunkers with only 2000 tons available. Colliers TUNISIA and SIR E. CASSELL are due 1/2 and 4/2 respectively with 12000 tons. Request your views whether serious delays in bunkering are anticipated and if so whether it would be advisable to send a few ships to St. Vincent for bunkers and sailed from there to join convoy.
(D.T.D. 2027/31 to C. in C. S.A.).

Independent
Sailings.

For N.C.S.O.'s. (Routeing of independant sailing merchant vessels) Cancel para (3) and (4) of my 2231/26/12/40 and para. (2) of my 0009/5/1/41. The instructions contained in above are being promulgated by separate signal.
(C. in C. S.A. 2212/31 to S.O.I.'s amended 0032/3).

W.S.5B.

Convoy W.S.5B sailed A.M. /29 part one for Capetown (list and personnel embarked). Part Two for Durban. (list and personnel embarked).
(S.S.T.O. Freetown 2357Z/31 to S.S.T.O. Capetown).

/Independent....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Independent Sailings. My 2212/31 Homeward bound independent ships are to be given alternative routes as follows: (1) if bound for west coast ports, to Clyde, Liverpool, Swansea Bay and Barry Roads. (2) If bound for east coast ports, to Oban Loch Ewe and Clyde. (3) If destination is unknown, to all ports in (1) and (2). (4) British Ships require route to Belfast, in addition.
(C. in C. S.A. 2357R/31 to S.O.I.'s).

Mediterranean.

GREYHOUND. GRIFFIN. My 1213/31. On Arrival of GREYHOUND and GRIFFIN request you will arrange rapid transit Canal and after fuelling Suez sail them for Aden to arrive 4/2.
(C. in C. Med. 1215/31 to S.B.N.O. Suez).

Warships for Turkey. Following from Admiral Kelly. My. 1710/30 Your 0956/28 since received. Minster of Defence in discussing this realised contract provided for delivery but difficulties were recognised and they wish to help.
(A.B.A. Angora, 1258/31 to Admty).

Malta Air Report. Combined Services Report Malta up to 1700 hours 31/1. All times G.M.T. 0445 to 0900 Sunderland patrolling Eastern Tunisian coast for enemy shipping signalled at 0700 2 M/V's bearing 330° from Zuara Light distance 140 miles course 330° speed 10 knots. 4 Swordfish patrolling same area with torpedoes. informed. These aircraft sighted M/V's but did not attack as M/V's were in territorial waters. 0907 to 1147 Glenn Martin photo recco Tripoli Area. N.C. Tripoli Harbour 5 destroyers 2 M/V's 10,000 tons 2 M/V's 8,000 tons 3 M/V's 6,000 tons 3 M/V's 5,000 3 M/V's 4,000 tons 1 M/V 2,000 tons 1 fleet auxiliary outside Harbour 1 M/V 18,000 tons damaged supported by several small craft see my 1.60 29/1.

Tripoli Recon.

Augusta, Catania Messina Recon. 0705 to 1034 photo recco Syracuse Augusta Catania Messina. In Messina Straits 2 destroyers 1 steering North and 1 South. In position 37.40 N. 15.40 E. 1 M/V 2,000 tons course 300° speed 8 knots.
(N.C. R.A.F. Malta 1725/31).

/Balloon.....

MOST SECRET.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Balloon Units.

Your 2301/20. Two balloon units being despatched in W.S.6.
(D. of L.D. 1946/31 to C. in C. Med).

Shipping.

C.O.S. No. 52 to C. in C. M.E. Details of shipping proposed to meet military requirements.
(A.C.N.S. (P) 2356/31 to C. in C. Med).
See Med. Vol.

Port and Transit Committee.

Your 0929/24 para 3 presume all necessary powers of Port and Transit Committee have been properly delegated to it by competent Egyptian Authority and that that Committee in turn will properly delegate necessary powers to Assistant Director of Ports and Assistant Director of Docks. Request definition of functions of Committee be amplified. Para. 4 presume cost of port Officers and Staffs will be met by Egyptian Government.
(D.S.T. 2102/31 to C. in C. Med).

Tripoli air attack.

Special Intelligence Summary. All times G.M.T.

Results of extensive Photo recces on 31/1. 6 Wellingtons 148 Squadron despatched in 2 waves to attack shipping in Tripoli Harbour night 31/1. Over target from 1800 - 1925. Several sticks across dispersed shipping in centre resulting in 1 MV. 8000 tons hit once confirmed and possibly twice. Fire started. 1 M.V. 4000 ton hit confirmed. Another 8000 ton M.V. possibly damaged. Sticks hit and straddled small Southern mole and seaplane hangars. No shipping reported at sea, damaged ship outside harbour was seen to fire light A/A.
(H.Q.Malta 2345/31).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

HERMES.
Aircraft.

Your 1427/27. Nine crated Swordfish are at Trincomalee but no ratings for erection. Intend HERMES shall proceed to Trincomalee on completion of six weeks flying period and re-equipping. Does part one your 1427/27 refer to 180 hours inspections or complete overhaul.
(C. in C. E.I. 0404Z/31 to HERMES).

Owing to present inadequacy of overhaul facilities necessary to hold as many reserve swordfish aircraft as possible to keep HERMES operating efficiently. Request consideration whether the four R.A.F. Swordfish now at Mombasa could on completion of operation be allocated to Trincomalee as A.R. for F.A.A. Your 1726/3/1 refers.
(C. in C. E.I. 0406Z/31 to Admty).

German U/B's in Indian Ocean.

Your 2229/7 and my 0700/6 it has been firmly established that this report is entirely without foundation.
(F.O.C.R.I.N. 0419Z/31 to Admty).

Force K.
CAPETOWN.

Availability of "C" class cruiser etc.
(C. in C. E.I. 0620Z/31) See Operations.Volume.
Cancel my 0810/28. Orders to CAPETOWN
(C. in C. E.I. 0744Z/31).

RANCHI.

On completion of boiler cleaning RANCHI proceed to Durban to fuel.
(C. in C. E.I. 0742Z/31).

Raider Report (false).

17.37 N. 63.32. E. suspected Raider 0934 de MUBO (Secret call sign decodes C.S.B.C).
(WARIALDA 0945/31).

PENRIS in position 017° 37'N. 063° 32'E. at 0934Z/31 made a Q distress signal - chased by raider. She probably sighted ANTENOR - ANTENOR is to report whether or not she was the ship sighted.
(C. in C. E.I. 1046Z/31 to E.I. Sqdn).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

My 1046/31. Ship sighted was ANTENOR.
(C. in C. E.I. 15122/31).

DURMITOR. My 1900/2. Letters postmarked Mogadiscio November 27th have been received from crew of DURMITOR stating that vessel was at Kismayu.
(D.D.I.C. 1545/31 to C.O.I.S. Singapore and S.O.I's).

Force K. Operations - C. in C. E.I. 1932/30.
(D.O.D.(F) 1719/31)See Operations Volume.

B.N.F.I. Departure 10142/31 HINDUSTAN for B.N.F. one.
(N.O.I.C. Aden 10342/31 to Admty etc).

China.

DARAE. Your 2359/29. (re arrival of DELHI at Mauritius). DARAE ditto.
(C. in C. China 0300/31 to C. in C. S.A).

America & West Indies.

PRINCE ROBERT.
DIOMEDE. My 1701/19 and my 1631/20. PRINCE ROBERT will not fuel from SANADOLFO on 10/2. After fuelling on 2/2 DIOMEDE takes SAN ADOLFO under her orders and arranges her future movements until otherwise instructed.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1022/31 to DIOMEDE).

PRINCE ROBERT. My 1022/31. On being relieved by DIOMEDE proceed by Valparaiso and complete to full storage of fuel. On completion of usual 24 hour visit proceed direct Suva so as to arrive by 28/2. Fuel at Suva (date) as escort for troopship S.S. AWATEA to Vancourver. Unless otherwise informed by N.A. Santiago de Chile notify Chilean Authorities 24 hours in advance that PRINCE ROBERT will arrive Valparaiso.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1551/31 to PRINCE ROBERT).

/U.S.....

MOST SECRET.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

U.S. Navy. S.N.O. Curacoa's 1406/30 (1305/30 intended?) is being passed to you. Request you will ascertain for Navy Department if possible what orders have been given to U.S. N.A. Caracas and with what object.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1114/31 to N.A. Washington)

COMORIN. C. in C. S.A. 1101N/31. Fuel without delay and proceed on completion by route ordered in C. in C. S.A. 1659/29 so as to arrive at Freetown as early as possible on 10/2.
(S. in C. A.W.I. 1552/31 to COMORIN).

Australia.

SUVA. Your 1826/29 (Have you any news of Suva due Noumea.) SUVA Arrived Noumea 22/1.
(A.C.N.B. 02332/31).

QUEEN MARY. N.O.i/c Sydney's 0107 /26. Request Dawson be informed of proposal that QUEEN MARY be drydocked at Singapore on arrival in U.S. D.
(D.S.T. 1027/31 to A.C.N.B).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TURKHEIM. — S.O.S. intercepted at 2139/30. Giving her position as 58.12., 11.14 E. (D.S. 514).

ANTARKTIS.)
GERDA VITH)
LEESEN.)
MAX ALBRECHT.). — At Vigo on 29/1, Tanker ANTARKTIS was discharging alongside to oil quay. GERDA VITH and LEESEN appeared preparing to sail. 81 tons of lubricating oil were forwarded to Ferrol, where tanker MAX ALBRECHT is lying. (D.S. 514).

WOTAN. — Following from Navy Dep. WOTAN believed to have several German passengers on board sailed from Balboa Panama for unknown destination 29/1 without knowledge of the local authorities.
(N.A. Washington 1240/31 to Admty).

Santos. — My 1821a/30. Have obtained no further confirmation of report. Santos will report immediately any sign of movement.
(S.O.I. Montevideo 2144a/31 to S.A. Division.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LARNA. (?DERNA). — Departure 30/1 Italian Ship LARNA (?DERNA) for Genoa.
(Barcelona, 1254/31) (D.S. 516).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

DESIRADE met by DUNEDIN.

At 1220/29/1 in position 12° 55'N. 18° 48'W. DUNEDIN escorting SOBIESKI and KENYA with VELOX and VIDETTE in company on passage to Gibraltar met Vichy merchant DESIRADE ~~sighted~~ proceeding Dakar to Madagascar steering 218° 12 Knots. French aircraft was in sight DUNEDIN allowed ship to proceed. DUNEDIN was 140 miles from Dakar, could not leave convoy, and interception had been reported. I informed her that action was right.
(C. in C. S.A. 1017W/31 to Admty).

DESIRADE intercepted.

DEVONSHIRE proceeding on raider search in accordance with my 2319/29 reports intercepting French ship DESIRADE in position 0000 36'N. 020° 58'W. steering 178° 11 knots, 1500 troops on board, and is shadowing. Captain refuses to proceed to any port except Madagascar. Have told DEVONSHIRE to put armed guard on board and steaming party if necessary and escort to Freetown. Request confirmation that ship is required and more important than other duty (?) DEVONSHIRE should be Freetown to proceed in accordance with you 1907/30 a.m. 3/2.
(C. in C. S.A. 1201W/31 to Admty).

Released.

DEVONSHIRE is to release DESIRADE and R/V with NORFOLK in position 004° N. 021° W. DEVONSHIRE to be in position 0800/1.
(C. in C. S.A. 1609W/31 to DEVONSHIRE NORFOLK).

CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE.

COMORIN intercepted CAPITAINE PAUL LEMERLE bound Martinique to Casablanca 30/1 in 016 21'N. 056 15'W. Vessel permitted to proceed being within American neutrality zone.
(C. in C. A.W.I. 1703/31 to F.O.C.N.A.).

ALSIDA.

C. in C. A. & W.I. 1203/29. Meat ship ALSIDA reported left Marseilles for Brazil 16/1. Unless considered especially important I do not intend to intercept this ship on outward voyage as she is unlikely to have sufficient fuel to reach British port. Her interception on these waters might lead to further protest without any advantage to us.
(R.A.S.A.D. 17172/31 to C. in C. S.A.).

/JEAN.....

MOST SECRET.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS. (contd).

JEAN L.D. — To be sent to Simonstown under armed guard and there detained pending Admiralty instructions for sending her to Freetown. Desired to find out how many extra officers and men will have to be sent from Capetown to form a crew to take JEAN L.D. on from Freetown.
(Head of M. 2047/31 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

SONTAY. — In view of last para. of HERMES 1700/30, do you consider it would be safe to sail SONTAY unescorted to Freetown under armed guard, if - (a) Parole is first obtained from Master, ship's Officers and military Officers. (b) All arms are removed except from Officers? 2. If Admiralty decide that parole is to be asked for French would be informed that if it is given their repatriation will proceed smoothly; but that if it is refused it will be necessary to land all fit military personnel at Durban. 3. For your information, the present proposal is to tranship the invalids to hospital ship OXFORDSHIRE at Freetown sailing them from there to Casablanca. 4. Possibility also being investigated of landing SONTAY's passengers in S. Africa.
(Head of M. 2103/31 to C. in C. S.A).

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA is being used to escort SANTOS from Durban to Simonstown. Commandant Free French Naval Forces Africa concurs.
(C. in C. S.A. 2131/31 to Admty).

MENDOZA. — Your 2217/28. Prize proceedings will be instituted in respect of both ship and cargo. Ministry of Shipping will arrange repatriation of passengers and those members of the crew who do not volunteer for the Allied cause. (c) Yes, though since crew requirements will depend on the number of volunteers from the present crew, the latter should be interrogated as soon as possible in accordance with my 1841/15/11/40 and Colonial office telegram to O.A.G., Sierra Leone, No. 636 of 7/11/40.
(Head of M. 2104/31 to C. in C. S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

W.B. WALKER.
(torpedoed 29/1)

Proceed with despatch to assistance of S.S. W.B. WALKER in position 55° 59'N. 15° 51'W. Ship is broken in halves both halves salvageable.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0200/31 to SALVONIA).

My 0200/31, amend longitude to read 16° 05'W.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock No. T.O.O./31).

Following has been read. Probably two submarines have dispersed convoy.
(JORDAENS, 0944/31).

My 0145/31. Proceed to position 56° 00'N. 16° 05'W. to search for two widely separated halves of s.s. W.B. WALKER reported still afloat at 1000/30.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1100/31 to ASSURANCE).

BOTUSK.
EMMAPLEIN.

Following has been read:- SSSS Close off North Rona Island west BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN torpedoed.
(Wick Radio 0952/31 Lyness W/T 1048/31).
BOTUSK British 3091 tons. EMMAPLEIN Dutch 5436 tons, both from Convoy H.X. 103.

Following has been read:- No escort present. One patrol aircraft.
(JEAN JADOT, 1012/31).

One sunderland and one Hudson proceeding forthwith to search area of North Rona for two submarines reported to have attacked convoy in that vicinity.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1140/31).

My 1140 one Beaufort aircraft also searching.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1156/31).

Proceed with all despatch to BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN reported by JEAN JADOT torpedoed off North Rona. Damage may be from own mines Instruct stragglers from H.X. 103 in the vicinity to keep well clear of mine fields.
(C. in C. W.A. 1143/31 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA).

/ Following .....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 31.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

Following has been read. S.O.S. Unknown ship sunk 57° north 16° 30'W.
(Valentia Radio 1153/31).

I have no tugs available to render assistance to BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN torpedoed off North Rona Island. ST. OLAVES still at sea on rescue work.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1157/31 to A.C.O.S.).

My 1140. Cancel S.T. one and S.T. two patrols and send maximum number of aircraft immediately to thoroughly search area off North Rona for U-Boat.
(A.C.O.S. 1210/31 to Naval Air Stations)

My 1140. (A/C searching for 2 U-boats) For Flannin Isles read North Rona.
(A.C.O.S. 1212/31).

1 M.V. abandoned 020 Rona 6 4 Boats with survivors - sea rough wind 12 - 204.
(A/C Duty C, 1350/31 to 18 Reconn. H.Q.).

Following received JEAN JADOT begins ?(probably) 2 submarines have dispersed convoy 1044 (ends).
(C. in C. W.A. 1251/31 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA).

BEAGLE with KEPPEL proceed when ready to vicinity of North Rona to assist. BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN from convoy H.X. 103 reported torpedoed off North Rona. WHITEHALL WINCHELSEA are proceeding to position also BUTTERMERE WINDERMERE from Stornoway. Aircraft are co-operating. Attention is drawn to Adty Message Q.Z.X. 170 which you are to keep clear of and stragglers from convoy are to be warned to do likewise.
(C.A.D.H.F. 1330/31 to BEAGLE KEPPEL).

Unknown ship reported sunk at 1252/31 in 057° 00'N. 016° 30'W. Investigate.
(C. in C. W.A. 1335/31 to ANEMONE).

/Aircraft.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked. (contd).

Aircraft reported one merchant ship abandoned 050 deg. Rhona Island 6 miles, 4 boats with survivors.
(C. in C. W.A. 1509/31 to WHITEHALL, WINCHELSEA).

VERBENA has on board 11 survivors from British BOTUSK, and will proceed to Clyde to land them and refuel. H.M. Cable ship AERIEL has on board complete crew of 34 of Dutch EEMSAPLEIN also 25 survivors from BOTUSK and 3 bodies 2 of which are dead, she will land survivors at Scrabster. States: EEMSAPLEIN has 4000 tons steel on board and is sinking rapidly. Consider sinking caused by mine. Am proceeding with WINCHELSEA in company to join convoy.
(WHITEHALL, 1800 /31 to C. in C. W.A).

W.B. WALKER.
KING ROBERT.
WEST WALES.
AIKATERINI.

Arrived 1823/31 ANTHONY with following survivors:- 11 from W.B. WALKER, 22 from KING ROBERT, 4 from WEST WALES and 30 from AIKATERINI.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2047/31 to Admty).

RUSHPOOL.
WEST WALES.
(torpedoed 29/1)

Arrived ANTELOPE with 40 survivors from RUSHPOOL 17 from WEST WALES.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2206/31).

Submarines Reported.

0052.

Sailed BUTTERMERE to R.V. with WINDERMERE forthwith. Both proceeding with despatch to hunt submarine which torpedoed 2 ships off Flannin Isles at 0952 today. 700 Squadron providing air co-operation.
(A.C.O.S. 1140/31 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

1233

By D/F on 12700 kc/s at 1233/31, a German U-Boat was possibly within 25 miles of [illegible]
(D.D.I.(T) 1332/31).

War Diary. 31.1.1941. Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

0327.)
1042.) LF's suggest enemy unit within 300 miles of 45° N. 20° W. Possible this is a surface ship (D.D.I.C. 1248/31).

1837. About 52° N. 20°W. say 300'W. of Valentia, indefinite position (D.S. 515).

1456. Submarine sighted 1600 yards bearing 120 fixed defences, Peterhead, dived at 1456.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead 1500/31 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).

1550. An investigating sub. bearing 120 Buchan Ness continuing patrol 1610 hours.
(A/C? 1550/31 to 18 R. Group H.Q).

1400. One submarine reported by Coast Defence 120° Peterhead 1600 yards at 1400/31 steering south. Conning Tower and Periscope showing. Graded B/2.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1610/31 to Ships and Authorities Rosyth North etc).

My 1610. On interrogation of observer who made the report grading is reduced to C.4.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1814/31).

1645. S/M was reported off Buchan Ness about 1648/31. The hostile identity of any S/M encountered South of latitude 057° N. and West of longitude 000° 30' E. must be definitely established before it is attacked.
(Capt. S.9. 1737/31 to Netherlands S/M O23 French S/M MINERVE).

1345. S/M sighted from American seaplane 40° N. 21.15. W. 1245 G.M.T. /31. (A.1).
(N.A. Lisbon 1847/31 to Admty Gibraltar).

Your 2030/31 (Area searched unsuccessfully) Return to base.
(C. in C. W.A. 2251/31 to NORTHERN SPRAY).

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

31.1.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

Estimated U/B. dispositions.

German.
One between Shetlands and Norway homeward bound.
One within 100 mile radius of 58° N. 26°W.
One within 25 mile radius of 56° N. 21° 40'W. at 1257/30.
One within 25 mile radius of 54° N. 18° W. at 1918/30.
One may be S. or S.E. of Rockall or may be homeward bound from that area.
Two may arrive Lorient today.
One near Azores.
One possibly near Cape Verde Islands.

Italian.
Two probably to S.W. of Rockall between 53° N. and 56° N.
One near 49° N. 14°W. returning to Gironde.
One nearing Gironde.
One in southern half of Bay of Biscay.
Possibly one near Canary Islands.
(D.D.I.C. 1251/31).

ADMIRALTY WAR DIARIES

1 JANUARY 1941 TO 31 DECEMBER 1941

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation "Rubble" re repetition.

Request whether such operation again possible, bearing in mind
(a) Should severe ice conditions continue it would not be possible for vessels to assemble at departure point until end of March.
(b) Allowing at least fortnight's delay awaiting favourable conditions, Equinoctial period would be near. With only twelve hours of darkness it would not be possible for slow ships, sailing at dusk from Swedish fiords to clear Skagerack before following dawn.
(c) German daylight air patrol probably covers area of Skagerack effectively.
(d) Evidence indicates Germans irritated by success of first operation, may well organize hindrance such as mines patrol service or R.C. to prevent repetition.
(e) Only vessels now available do not exceed speed of twleve knots and therefore are barely suitable for evasion unless thick weather during daylight can be depended upon.
(N.A. Stockholm 1555/1 to D.N.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Forces at Gibraltar, S/M's, M.T.B's, Fairmiles.

Your 1258/31. Realised in absence of Force H from Gibraltar that forces at your disposal are very limited. Such a condition, however, will only arise during a specific operation.
Should a situation arise (of which the Admiralty was not aware) and you considered recall of Force H was necessary, you would no doubt inform the Admiralty.
Regret not possible to increase the number of submarines to be based on Gibraltar nor can M.T.Bs be spared at present. The latter, as they become available, must be disposed for offensive operations.
Expect Fairmiles will be ready to leave U.K. early in March.
No. 202 Squadron is third on the order of priority for equipment with P.B.Y's. Owing to delay in delivery not possible to give firm date.
(D.O.D.(F) 2245/1 to F.O.C.N.A.).

South Atlantic.

DORSETSHIRE

Until situation as regards pocket battleship is clearer retain DORSETSHIRE in support of NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE.
If necessary KENYA will have to escort Force Z to Freetown.
(D.O.D.(F) 0103/1 to C.in C. S.A.).

DRAGON
BULOLO

DRAGON to sail at 1800/2 and proceed to R.V. with and relieve BULOLO escorting TAMERLANE in 001° 02' N. 018° 20' W. at 0800/4. (BULOLO route). On relief BULOLO is to proceed to Freetown arriving 1700/8.
(C.in C. S.A., 1719N/1, to DRAGON, BULOLO).

NORFOLK,
DEVONSHIRE,
DORSETSHIRE,
Force Z.

Your 1017/1 (?1107/1). Subject to any further developments NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE on completion of fuelling should be sailed in company with DORSETSHIRE in the general direction towards Force Z.
It will later be for consideration whether KENYA is to be reinforced by DORSETSHIRE only or by all three cruisers.

/ Further information ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

NORFOLK,
DEVONSHIRE,
DORSETSHIRE,
Force Z.
(Contd.)

Further information may then be available which will confirm, or otherwise, that the raider is a pocket battleship.
Adty. will make a further signal and will amend A.T. 1907/30 as necessary.
(D.O.D.(F) 2312/1 to C.in C. S.A.).
(Note. - KENYA is escorting Force Z.).

DEVONSHIRE,
NORFOLK.

Your 0103/1. For how long will DEVONSHIRE and NORFOLK be available for operation in S.A. Station? In accordance with present instructions they should leave Freetown 4/2 to meet Convoy T.C.9.
Your 1907/30 refers.
(C.in C. S.A., 1017N/1, to Admty.).

East Indies.

Operation
CANVAS.

My 0914/29.
(i) Intend CERES and CAPETOWN shall take part. Also SHROPSHIRE and HERMES if epidemic in SHROPSHIRE permits arrival in time. HAWKINS might be available for a day or two.
(ii) Maximum naval co-operation required about 13 to 16/2. Combined Conference at (? Nairobi) 6/2.
(iii) C. Class Cruisers will engage enemy movements on the coast roads etc., and attend on HERMES if present. SHROPSHIRE will bombard the shore defences during final assault. HERMES reconnaissance, spotting and sinking any escaping merchant ships.
(iv) Nairobi informed.
(C.in C.E.I., 0650Z/1, to Admty.).

Raider,
Force K.

Raider belived to be near Seychelles at 1100 G.M.T./1 and I have no alternative but to use Force K for the hunt. I will release Force K as soon as possible, if necessary cancel operation against Mogadiscio. (C.in C.E.I.1946Z/1, to C.in C. Med.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

2.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

W/T Traffic.

Most unusual volume of traffic originated by H.Q. Armistice Commission, Turin and Ministere, Rome addressed Delegation, Bizerta, between 0448 and 0602 to-day. (F.O.C.N.A. 1102/2 to S.O.Force H).

East Indies.

Operation "Breach"

Your 0056/2. Mogadishu can be attacked without delaying arrival at Aden. Intend to carry out bombing and gardening P.M. today. (S.O. Force K 0225Z/2 to C.in C. E.I.).

Cancel my 1946/1. Force K is now proceeding direct to Aden. E.T.A. A.M./5. Mogadishu operation has been cancelled. (C.in C. E.I. 0248Z/2 to C.in C. Med.).

(1) S.O. Force 'K' now reports he can undertake Mogadishu operation without delaying his arrival at Aden.
Bombing and minelaying will therefore be carried out P.M./today.
(2) Provided destroyer escort is in time to meet FORMIDABLE in Gulf of Aden and fuel question permits consider it is preferable for secrecy and urgency that she should go straight through to Suez without calling at Aden. Further signal will be made. (C.in C. E.I. 0442Z/2.).

Operation "Breach", Force K., Mogadishu.

Your 0440Z/2. Attack on Mogadishu completed. Five Cucumbers planted believed to be unseen (position). Nine aircraft dropped 54 250 pound G P bombs and 63 incendiaries on Ordnance Depot Buildings N.E. end of aerodrome, railway station, petrol tanks Ras Sip, customs shed and (? barracks). All aircraft returned. Little opposition.
(2) FORMIDABLE has ample fuel to reach Suez 0700/7 at 25 knots (?) propose to fuel Port Said or Suez, whichever preferable. Request destroyer escort meet me 1700/4 in 012° (?) 30' N. 047° 25' E.
All times in the text zone minus 3.
(S.O. Force K, 2005Z/2, to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Redisposition of light forces.

Your 0028/2/2. PHOEBE is detailed to reinforce Meditn. Fleet.
(ii) C.S.18 in EDINBURGH will return to U.K. from Freetown.
(C.in C. H.F. 1041/3.).

Operations.

Proposed use of URGE to attack German M.V's.

Intelligence Graded B 2 indicates one large German Merchant Ship is in Vatter Fiord 68° 17' N. 14° 41' E. secured by the stern and has a considerable quantity of fish on board. Also HAMBURG is expected to arrive Svolvaer 68° 14' N. 14° 35' E. about 15/2 and possibly sail about 18/2 with cargo of fish.
B. Re para. 3 of my 1303/14 CACHALOT owing to her size is unsuitable to tackle the former.
C. As L.23 should arrive Scapa about 8/12 I would like to send URGE to attack either or both of these ships if you can spare her.
D. URGE has already been at Scapa for 3 weeks and I am not fully aware of the amount of running she has been doing. If you can spare her please ascertain if the submarine and crew are in all respects fit to take the job on. I would propose she sailed about 7/2.
(F.O.S. 1533/3 to A.C.O.S.).

Mining.

Operation S.N.68.

If cover is available propose to sail for S.N.68 at 0001/12 and lay between positions 062° 43' N. 010° 43' W. and 063° 21' N. 012° 00' W. starting at 1230/13. Re Adty. 1822/1. Request if possible that C.in C. H.F. will detail a fourth destroyer for this and subsequent operations until arrival of ST. MARY's.
(R.A.M.L. 1428/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Military Convoys.

Convoy
W.S.6.

Re Adty. 0055/3 S.S. CITY OF MARSEILLES will not be ready to sail from Liverpool before 10/2.
(D.S.T.O. Liverpool 0940/3.).

Adty's 2335/21 para.(i) and (ii).
Following are detailed. Ocean Escort.
F.O.C. 18 C.S. in EDINBURGH with BIRMINGHAM.
A.A. escort. PHOEBE. (ii) F.O.C. 18 C.S. is to sail ship to arrive Clyde on 8/2.
(iii) PHOEBE is to remain with convoy as additional ocean escort as far as Freetown.
(iv) After fuelling at Freetown F.O.C. 18 C.S. in EDINBURGH is to return to Scapa.
(C.in C. H.F. 1117/3, 1502/3).

If one heavy 6 inch cruiser is to accompany W.S.6 round Cape the following is the immediate situation regarding cruisers at Scapa:- NIGERIA, ARETHUSA, AURORA ready for service MAURITIUS, GALATEA, DIDO working up.
2. The working up cruisers should be (? ready) within 2 weeks.
(C.in C. H.F. 1341/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration", Violation of Neutral Waters. Use of Force.

Your No.1/3 of 1/1.
A. Para. 3. Status of unoccupied France is unique and violation of her territorial waters cannot be governed by existing code of international law. Reason for allowing violation is to assist your problem of interception.
Spanish waters are not violated as policy of H.M. Govt. is to avoid offending Spanish susceptibilities since we hope they will oppose a German entry. To sum up the question of violating territorial waters of these two countries is decided on a basis of expediency. In the case of France there is the further consideration that information reaching H.M. Govt. from a variety of sources suggests that some 60% of Vichy imports goes to Germany and some 20% to Italy.
B. In such circumstances, as in all others attending Operaion "Ration", the Senior Officer must exercise his discretion to decide whether H.M. Ships are in overwhelming force; he has authority to withdraw if balance of strength is such that he considers it probable that H.M. Ships may be lost or damaged.
C. Para. 5(a) last sentence. Principal object of overwhelming superior force ordered in A.T.1407/10 is to deter French from any resistance. In circumstances outlined by you operation should be cancelled.
D. Para. 5 (b) and (c) and Para. 6. Precision in such matters is impossible. As stated in A.T.1900/30/12 object of "Ration" is to stop leak in blockade. On the other hand when carrying out Operation "Ration" we wish to avoid a serious clash with Vichy forces at a time when Vichy govt. appear to be resisting German pressure. Difficulty of steering a course between these two requirements is realised. If in any doubt when carrying out "Ration" need to avoid a serious clash is to predominate and against surface warships your policy should be to hold your fire except when attacked.
E. Notwithstanding "D", in the Gibraltar area darkened ships approaching at night may be treated as hostile.
(Head of M., Approved 1st Lord to F.O. Force H., 1036/3).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Transport of French Brigade.

P.O.C. N.A. 1334/2, proposal in my 2153/31 no longer possible. Free French have suggested sailing French Brigade in JACKAREG and CAPO OLMO with PRESIDENT HOUDUCE as escort direct from Point Noire to Durban. Though HOUDUCE no protection against raider, route is coastal and this might be accepted if transhipment could be arranged at Durban. Any delay of convoy at Freetown very undesirable. If any ship into which British (? West African) troops can go at Freetown suggest CUBA might (? group omitted) these. (C.in C. S.A., 0145/3, to Admty.).

East Indies.

Operation "Canvas", W.S.5B escort.

Admty. 0300/22 and C.in C. S.A's 21633/27. Intend HAWKINS to leave Aden 6/2 and proceed to Mombasa so as to arrive 10/2 to take part in operation "CANVAS". Subsequently HAWKINS will join escort of W.S.5B South East of Mombasa. EMERALD after refuelling at Mombasa will escort Indian and Malayan portion of convoy to Bombay. My 0637/13/12 is cancelled. (C.in C. E.I. 14402/3, to Admty. etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

4.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Escort of AORANGI and AWATEA by PRINCE ROBERT and PRINCE HENRY.

New Zealand Govt. concerned about safety of AORANGI and AWATEA carrying air force personnel Auckland to Vancouver every 4 weeks and have asked for cover from vicinity of Union Group beyond which N.Z. Units are unable to provide escort. PRINCE ROBERT, due to return to Esquimalt from South America, is providing escort for AWATEA leaving Suva 1/3 vide my 1551/31/1.
Escort for further voyage can only be provided at expense of other commitments and by abandonment of patrol of West Coast of the Americas except for very occasional visits of ships from Caribbean Sea.
PRINCE ROBERT and PRINCE HENRY based at Esquimalt undertake escort from Suva to Vancouver alternatively commencing with PRINCE HENRY for AORANGI trip in April.
N.S.H.Q. Ottawa concurs in employment of the ships if it is decided to use them in this manner.
Request Admiralty views whether this dispersion of forces is justified. Withdrawal of patrols from West Coast of South America is very likely to be followed by a break out by such German ships as are ready to move also risk of raider activity on that coast.
PRINCE ROBERT and PRINCE HENRY are only ships suitable for this duty and for South America Patrol having large endurance and being self-supporting for water. If PRINCE ROBERT alone were used escort could be in company for some 3000 miles of Canadian end of route.
In my opinion risks to these troop ships between vicinity of Union Group and radius of 3000 miles from Esquimalt may be accepted although in a dangerous area, reliance being placed on widely dispersed routes and changes of R.V. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1301/4, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys Procedure in event of Invasion.

In the event of an invasion of U.K. it is intended to order the following movements of ocean shipping.

HX and SC. Convoys

(a) If West of 35° W. turn back to Canadian ports.

(b) If East of 35° West to come on and be diverted into Emergency Anchorages in the U.K. already arranged in A.L. T.D.210/40.

SL, SLS and HG Convoys. To come on unless only a short distance out and be diverted to emergency anchorages in U.K.

2. Further sailing of independently routed ships from North American Ports will be stopped until situation clarifies. Independently routed ships approaching U.K. will be diverted into the Emergency Anchorages.

3. Orders for the movements in paras. 1 and 2 will normally be given by Adty. but should communications break down, C.in C. W.A. should give the necessary orders.

4. It will be necessary to decide subsequently whether further SL and HG Convoys should or should not be sailed. This also applies to independent sailings from S. Atlantic.

(D.T.D. 1926/5 to C.in C. W.A., A.W.I., etc.).

Junction of S.L.S. and H.G. Convoys.

Cancel my 1903/1/1 and 2026/31/1.
To assist junction of SLS and HG Convoys with minimum amount of signalling, following scheme will be adopted commencing with SLS 68.
(D.T.D. 1937/5 to C.in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.).

Military Convoys.

W.S.6.

Escort arrangements

(a) U.K. to Freetown. EDINBURGH (C.S.18) to return to U.K. from Freetown, BIRMINGHAM, PHOEBE, CATHAY.

(b) Freetown to Cape. BIRMINGHAM, to return to U.K. from the Cape, PHOEBE, CATHAY.

(c) Cape to Durban. CORNWALL, PHOEBE.

(d) Durban to Suez. CORNWALL and/or PHOEBE to be decided later.

(D.O.D.(F) 1624/5, to C.in C's S.A., E.I., and H.F.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S.6. — Your 0009/4. In view of Raider situation CATHAY must escort W.S.6 to the Cape. Alternative, postpone CANTON's boiler cleaning to enable her to return to Freetown before refitting in Mid-March.
2 Confirmation of date when CHITRAL or alternative vessel may be expected will be communicated as soon as possible.
(D.O.D.(F) 1834/5 to C.in C. S.A.).

East Indies.

CALCUTTA
CARLISLE — Admty. 0138/2 para. (a) (ii).
So long as present Italian form continues A/A cruiser is not essential, but request CALCUTTA be kept earmarked for Red Sea in case enemy air offensive should be resumed.
(ii) My 0812/2. If CARLISLE can be taken in hand at Suez instead of Bombay appreciable time on passage would be saved. Request C.in C. Med. will give very early decision. Ship is still at Aden, but due to be taken in hand on 11/2 at Bombay.
(C.in C. E.I., 0708Z/5, to Admty.).

F.A.A. on the station. — Your 1247/3. Concur that maintenance unit should be established at Wynberg as soon as possible and that requisite spares and a reserve of 12 Swordfish aircraft be maintained there. Operation of Force T in Southern area of East Indies Station will be extremely difficult until these are established.
(ii) Spare aircraft are now available at Trincomalee. Intend Force T shall proceed there on completion of six weeks flying period and HERMES re-equipped.
(C.in C. E.I. 1258Z/5).

Proposed employment of FORMIDABLE. — Your 1926/4 and my 1610/5. Do not anticipate FORMIDABLE will be able to pass Canal before 13/2. Propose she be employed on East Indies operations till required to leave vicinity of Aden about 10/2.
(C.in C. Med., 2207/5, to C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Troop Convoy,
ROYAL SOVEREIGN,
RAMILLIES.

It is desired to provide ocean escort for troopship ready to leave U.K. by 24/2 with personnel for Halifax.
You are requested to signal proposed arrangements for ROYAL SOVEREIGN and RAMILLIES. (D.O.D.(H) 1249/5 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

Your 1249/5 alternatives are for ROYAL SOVEREIGN to proceed to U.K. with T.C.9 and provide escort for the whole return passage or for RAMILLIES to meet troop ships in about 030° W. on 28/2 after escorting or covering H.X.110. Suggest former (? preferable) in view of raider situation.
(B.S.3, 1747/5, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Penmarch,
Havre,
Ile de Bas.

1. It is intended to carry out the following minelaying programme in the February dark period:-
(a) INTREPID, ICARUS and IMPULSIVE to embark mines at Portsmouth on 18/2 proceed to Dartmouth or Plymouth, and lay off Penmarch under the direction of C.in C. Plymouth.
(b) On completion ships return to Portsmouth and reload.
(c) ICARUS to lay off Havre under direction of C.in C. Portsmouth, INTREPID and IMPULSIVE proceed to Dartmouth or Plymouth and lay off Isle de Bas under the direction of C.in C. Plymouth.
(d) On completion all ships return to Immingham via Portsmouth.
2. For these operations gun armament will be retained and reduced outfits of mines embarked. INTREPID and ICARUS will embark taut wire measuring gear.
3. Supply of mines at Portsmouth will be arranged by Adty. All mines will be fitted with flooders.
(V.C.N.S. 1202/6).

South Atlantic.

CANTON
CHITRAL

Your 1834/3. CANTON should boiler clean on arrival U.K. provided CHITRAL or substitute can be sailed to arrive Freetown by 26/2. If this cannot be arranged CANTON should be sailed to arrive Freetown 26/2 but by then will have done 1500 hours steaming. CANTON should in any case return to Freetown after boiler cleaning. If other vessels become available CANTON should be able to refit end of March, my 0009/4.
(C.in C. S.A., 1201/6, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Convoys W.S.5B. W.S.5B.X.

(i) Route for W.S.5B from Durban.
(iii) Intend HAWKINS to join convoy in about position D and escort convoy to about 020° N. and then return to Aden.
(iv) EMERALD is to leave convoy in about position D and proceed Mombasa to fuel. Convoy W.S.5B.X (ships) are to be detached with EMERALD to proceed vicinity of Mombasa where H.M.S. EMERALD will be relieved while she is fuelling. Troop ship will not enter Mombasa. EMERALD will subsequently escort W.S.5 B.X to Bombay.
(v) AUSTRALIA is to escort convoy to position H and then proceed Aden.
(C.in C. E.I. 1141Z/6).

America and West Indies.

H.X.110
RAMILLIES

Your 1747/5.
Second alternative is proposed: RAMILLIES should be sailed with H.X.110.
(D.O.D.(H) 1657/6 to R.A. 3 B.S.).

Convoy T.C.9.

Date of sailing of T.C.9 from Halifax is to be postponed until 14/2 to enable certain urgent military supplies to be shipped in the transports.
The code names for the two items in this consignment are PLUMS and STONES.
R.A. 3rd B.S. is requested to report as soon as known the E.T.A. of convoy at Position A vide Adty. 1635/23/1.
(D.O.D.(H) 1832/6, to R.A. 3 B.S., etc.).

Australia.

AUSTRALIA.

Your 1723/31/12/1940. It is possible that before conclusion of her present duties you may care to reconsider future employment of AUSTRALIA. Should it fit in with Adty's plan her service in Mediterranean or Indian Ocean would much facilitate drafting, which with crossing reliefs running into months and our very limited pool now presents considerable problem. (1st Naval Member, 0715Z/6, to Admty. for 1 S.L.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

C.S.1.
Force Z.

My 2312/1. After C.S.1 in NORFOLK with DEVONSHIRE and DORSETSHIRE make contact with Force "Z" following movements are to take place.
2. C.S.1 in NORFOLK with DEVONSHIRE to proceed to U.K. NORFOLK to Scapa and DEVONSHIRE toLiverpool.
3. KENYA and DORSETSHIRE to escort Force Z to Freetown. KENYA then to return to Plymouth.
(D.O.D.(P) 0029/7 to F.O.C.N.A., C.in C. S.A. C.in C. W.A.).

Admiralty 0029/7. Pass through following positions
(a) 029° 40' N. 019° 55' W.
(b) 041° 00' N. 018° 50' W. C.in C. W.A. is requested to issue onward routeing instructions from position (b).
(F.O.C.N.A., 0326/7, to F.O. I C.S., C.in C. W.A.).

East Indies.

U.S.8.
U.S.9.

S.T.O. Egypt 1117/5. All U.S.8 ships are required for transhipment of U.S.9 at Bombay. Request if possible U.S.9 sailing from Australia may be delayed until next arrival date is known of remaining U.S.8 ships at Bombay.
(P.S.T.O., E.I., Bombay, 0932Z/7, to C.in C. E.I.).

CAPETOWN.

Cancel para. 2 of my 1236/6. After reconnoitring Mogadishu about sunset 7/2 proceed at 15 knots to patrol off Kismayu. Object is to intercept and deal as necessary with any merchant ships found leaving or attempting to enter port. My 0824/25/10 (686 C) refers. Keep outside range of shore defences estimated to be about 23,000 yards.
(C.in C.E.I., 0942Z/7, to CAPETOWN).

/ Possible rising in Reunion ....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Possible rising in Reunion.

(i) N.O.I.C. Mauritius reports possible premature pro De Gaulle rising in Reunion. As this might provoke armed intervention by Madagascar, De Gaulle supporters have been discouraged from precipitating action and asked to give at least a weeks notice when action is contemplated. Mauritius has secure communication with them.
(ii) Situation however is not clear and would be further complicated in event of Italian collapse in East Africa if reported arrangements between Petain and Axis to intern Italian destroyers and S/Ms in Madagascar were successful.
(iii) It seems desirable to support Free French rising in Reunion at proper time, and if necessary and possible, to resist Madagascar armed intervention. Request confirmation that this is correct policy to follow.
(C.in C. E.I. 1106Z/7 to Adty.).

Plan for Operation "Canvas"

My 0650/1. Operation "CANVAS". Modified plan. (1) 12th Div. will capture Afladu on D 1, Jelib on D 2 and 3, Gobwen D 4. Thereafter consolidating and preventing reinforcements reaching Kismayu from Northwards.
(2) 11th Div. captures Lak Banna and advances on Kismayu D.6 and D 7 capturing it during D 8 to D 10.
(3) Following ships co-operation required. D 3 and D 4 bombarding coast road north of Juba River and possibly Brava to prevent reinforcements arriving from north.
D 6 and D 7 (?) bombarding islands and (?) mainland batteries and (?indiscriminate) bombardment of town after batteries temporarily silenced. Military attach great importance to latter task for moral effect.
Provisioning by seaborn supplies the 12th Div. on and after (?D) (?one) HAWKINS will support 8th C.S. bombarding.
(C.in C. E.I., 1300Z/7, to Admty.)
Amended, see 0432Z/11.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

My 1300/7. D 1 day will be February 11th.
(O.in C. E.I. 1302Z/7).

America and West Indies.

Convoy T.C.9.

Your 1832/6 can be complied with so far as cargo is concerned. Ships are, however, now loaded and personnel embarked.
As majority ships are built for tropical service, difficulty is already being experienced owing to freezing of pipes and general cold conditions on board.
Therefore unless this means of transport this cargo (which appears to be only about 3,000 tons) is imperative, suggest original arrangements stand and cargo be shipped by first possible opportunity.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1253/7, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

8.2.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

KENYA
SOBIESKI
DUNEDIN
RESOLUTION

Admty. 2308/4 and my 1628/5. Troopships KENYA and SOBIESKI complete docking p.m/10 Intend sailing these ships with DUNEDIN and A/S escort to limits of my station. Destroyers are available after return of Force H. Destroyers will also be required for RESOLUTION and I do not consider desirable these forces should sail in company. (F.O.C.N.A., 1314/8 to Admty.)

KANDAHAR
Operation
"Canvas"

An Italian Submarine is operating from Kismayu and consequently I have had to withdraw KANDAHAR from Red Sea for operation "Canvas" Could either JUNO or GRIFFIN after escorting FORMIDABLE to Suez or another destroyer replace KANDAHAR temporarily in Red Sea Force. KIMBERLEY is refitting. (C. in C., E.I., 1450Z/8 to C. in C., Med.)

America & West Indies

T.C. 9.

Your 1253/7. Safe and timely arrival of these weapons and ammunition is of vital importance. Much regret resultant delay and inconvenience in sailing of T.C. 9. (D.O.D.,(H) 1203/8 to N.S.H.Q., Ottawa)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

9.2.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

KENYA
SOBIESKI
DUNEDIN
RESOLUTION

Your 1314/8. Inward A/S escort cannot R.V. in Western Approaches before 20/2.
2. Request you will sail SS KENYA and SOBIESKI with DUNEDIN to conform.
3. Concur that RESOLUTION should sail separately, further signal will be made when destroyers are available to meet her as in A.T. 1206/3 para 3. (D.O.D. (F) 1739/9 to F.O.C.N.A.)

South Atlantic

CANTON

Your 2209/8. In view of delay to CECILIA it is essential that CANTON should arrive (?Freetown) by p.m./? 28 latest for convoy sailing 1/3. Every effort should be made to complete boiler cleaning but if cannot considered ship should be sailed in accordance with above. (C. in C., S.A. 0945N/9 to Admty., F.O.C.N.A.)

Transport of French Senegalese Brigade etc.

D.S.T. 1716/8, 1752/3, F.O.C.N.A's 1800/4 and my 0145/3. EMPIRE TROOPER should arrive Freetown not later than 28/2 for transhipment of French Senegalese brigade which proceeds to Freetown in CAPO OLMO and TOUAREG.
For British West Africans not yet certain whether CUBA will be available. If CUBA not able to sail will be necessary to divert homebound transport drawing not more than 26 feet.
Please confirm EMPIRE TROOPER can accommodate 2,000. (C. in C., S.A., 1409/9 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

9.2.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Convoys
U.S. 8
U.S. 9

P.S.T.O. E.I., Bombays' 0932/7
As U.S. 9 is due to leave Fremantle 12/2 request very early information what date the remaining ships of U.S. 8 can leave Suez. If prisoners of war are not shipped to Bombay in these ships a later date than 19/2 for their arrival Bombay can be accepted subject to P.S.T.O.,E.I. Bombay confirmation. Punctual movement of U.S. 9 is considered more important than shipment of prisoners. (C. in C., E.I., 0706/9 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal)

Your 0706Z/9/2. Definite reply will be made when situation in Canal becomes clearer it is hoped to sail all remaining ships except CHRISTIAN HUYGENS in B.S.F. 2. (S.B.N.O., Suez, 1921/9)

Force Z
W.S. 6.,
Escorts

The substitution of AUSTRALIA for CORNWALL in A.M. 2300/8 and the delay to GLASGOW mentioned in C. in C., Med's 1215/26/1, presumably increased by enemy minelaying, necessitating a re-arrangement of the escorts for Force "Z" (Admty. 1655/22/1) and W.S. 6. (Admty. 1624/5)
DORSETSHIRE required nearer home and should be relieved and turned round as early as practicable. Other instructions will be issued for her self-refit and docking proposed in C. in C., S.A's 2017N/2.
Refit of SHROPSHIRE should not be delayed
Request alternative proposals for escort of Force "Z" and W.S. 6.
(D.O.D.(F) 2359/9 to C. in C., E.I.)

Australia

Policy

Re telegram No 50 of 23/1 from S of S. for Dominions. Remarks of Chiefs of Staff submitted to Commonwealth Govt. re plans for defence of S.W. Pacific Area, Indian Ocean, etc. (C.N.S., A.C.N.B., to Admty. for 1st S.L. 0130Z/9) Original in Lion copy only.

MOST SECRET.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Military Convoys.

W.S.6 (B)
CILICIA.

It will be necessary to sail an additional Convoy, W.S.6(B), carrying about 5,000 personnel from U.K. to Freetown.
2. These ships, less ADDA, will overtake and join W.S.6 before it leaves Freetown. ADDA will proceed independently after Freetown.
3. Following ships will be ready to leave U.K. 17/2.

From Clyde.	From Liverpool.
NORTHUMBERLAND	YOMA
BURMA	ADA.
LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE.	

4. Speed of slowest ship 12 knots.
5. In addition CILICIA from Clyde will sail in company and proceed independently at best speed after A/S escort leave the convoy.
6. C. in C. H.F. is requested to detail one 8" or large 6" cruiser to provide ocean escort. Hope to be able to relieve her in lat. of Azores.
7. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide A/S escort, and to sail ships and arrange R.V. in accordance with route to be promulgated by Adty.
(V.C.N.S. 1335/11).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RENOWN. — Your 1649/10. Temporary repairs to bulge show no signs of damage except some cracks in welding to armour which are being repaired. Ship has not however used high speed in bad weather. Consider hunting operation in Atlantic can be undertaken for limited period though risk of repetition of previous damage should high speed be necessary in rough weather. (F.O. Force H. 1924/11 to Admty).

East Indies.

Operation "Canvas". — My 1300/7 para. 3. For D.6 and D.7 read D.5. and D.6. Coastdefence will be bombed by R.A.F. and HERMES aircraft in conjunction with bombardment. Recent destruction of seven enemy bombers and three fighters in area makes air force confident of air superiority on these days. (C. in C. E.I. 0432Z/11).

America & West Indies.

NEW NORTHLAND. HIGHLAND BRIGADE. — C. in C. S.A's 1315N/8 and C. in C. A.& W.I. 1722/9 NEW NORTHLAND is to embark French volunteers at the Beacon (Demerara) subsequently proceeding to Surinam if necessary. (D.O.D.(F) 1545/11 to C. in C's A.W.I., S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operations S.N. 7 B. S.N. 68.

Intend to carry out operations S.N.7 B and 68 A. (N.W. of Faroes) with SOUTHERN PRINCE, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BRIGHTON, CHARLESTOWN, LANCASTER. Cover EDINBURGH RODNEY and screen.
Admiralty pass to Air Ministry and H.Q. Coastal Command.
(R.A.M.L. 0925/12).

ZME.17. (Deep Minefield)

1. Initial position 51 01' 15"N, 04° 49' 30" W.
2. Direction 332 °
3. Length 3 miles.
4. 5. Operation to be carried out on the night 14/2 or as soon after as practicable.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1628/12).

Technical.

6 further Destroyers to be fitted to detect R D/F frequency of U-Boats.

If the U-Boats are using R D/F it is essential to detect the frequency so that counter measures can be developed.
2. In addition to the two destroyers already fitted with special receivers for searching for U-Boat R D/F it has been decided to fit six further destroyers of the Western Approaches Escort Forces (3 Greenock and 3 Liverpool).
3. The first set will be available by 15/2 and the remainder during March. Fitting should take about 48 hours.
4. C. in C. W.A. is requested to provide the necessary facilities for fitting the gear in the six destroyers detailed by him.
5. One R.N.V.R. Officer and 2 W/T ratings will be drafted to each destroyer.
6. The names of the destroyers are to be reported in due course.
(D.S.D. 1545/12).

MOST SECRET.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Military Convoys.

Convoy W.S.6 is to be turned to the Northward after daylight tomorrow so as to pass through position "X", 55° N. 29° W. at 1200/14.
2. After passing through this position convoy is to be turned before dark so as to pass through position "Y", 54° N. 29° 30'W. at 0900/15, thence to position "Z", 50° 30'N. 31° 00'W. at 0900/16.
3. RODNEY is to join the convoy as soon as possible and will remain with it until relieved by Force H. in position "Z".
4. The convoy is then to steer to resume the ordered route through position "F", 39° 30'N. 32° 30'W.
5. RODNEY's subsequent movements will be signalled later.
(1st S.L. 1909/12 to BIRMINGHAM, RODNEY).

MOST SECRET.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

MALAYA
condensers.

Your 1650/10. It is not possible to predict how long ship can continue to operate as a further failure may occur at any time.
(S.O; Force H. 1615/12 to Admty).

China.

Shipping,
Hong Kong.

I have for the present suspended sailings to northward of Hong Kong of British and Allied ships over 4000 tons and am arranging unobtrusive withdrawal of any such ships now north of Hong Kong.
(C. in C. China 03232/12 to Admty etc).
Passed to B.N.A. Tokio (C. in C. China, 0329/13)

Coastal
Traffic.

My 1216/11. Your 0813/22/10. Ref. paragraph (b) (1). Request you will consider reducing sailing of Coastal Traffic North of Hong Kong now. Should be done unobtrusively and on grounds of our need for coastal shipping in other areas.
(D.T.D. 1133/12 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Policy for S/M Escorts as Anti-Raiders.

My 1228/29/11/40.
A. The submarine patrol off Ponta Delgada is to be discontinued.
B. TUNA is to escort H.G. 54 to lat. 50° N. subsequently returning to U.K. South of Ireland as directed by F.O.S.
C. The 5 submarines of the 8th Flotilla based at Gibraltar under the operational control of F.O.C.N.A. are to reinforce the North Atlantic escorts of H.G. and O.G. Convoys. The submarine is to transfer from H.G. to O.G. Convoy in company with one of the surface escort at the point where the convoys pass in about 44° N.
D. 4 submarines as detailed by F.O.S. are to be based at Halifax under operational control of B.S.5 and are to escort Eastbound convoys as far as 25° West, returning thence to Halifax independently.
E. The object of these submarines is Anti Surface Raider.
F. Amended instructions will be issued as to the cruising position of submarines in a convoy when close escorts are present.
(D.A/S W. 1040/14 to F.O.S. F.O.C.N.A, B.S.5 amended 1335/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Attack by Raider on Convoy S.L.S. 64 on 12/2.

Orders to SHEFFIELD and KENYA.

Adty 2014/12.
SHEFFIELD is to leave scene of attack and proceed to Gibraltar so as to arrive 16/2.

2. SHEFFIELD is then to R.V. with S.L. 65 a.m./20 in approx. 28° N. 24° 30'W. course 342° and continue in company to 50° N or as far North as fuel will allow, proceeding thence to Gibraltar. E.T.A. Gibraltar is to be reported when clear of the convoy.

3. KENYA on relief by SHEFFIELD is to return to Freetown to provide escort for S.L. 67.

4. KENYA is to inform SHEFFIELD of any alteration necessary to R.V.
(V.C.N.S. 2005/14 to SHEFFIELD, KENYA).

Your 2005/14.
KENYA will not have sufficient fuel to return to Freetown unless she is relieved a.m./19 on which date convoy will be in approx. 028° 00'N. 024° 30'W.
(C.S.10 2301N/14 to Adty).

South Atlantic.

FURIOUS to take Hurricanes to Takoradi.

My 1608/20. FURIOUS will leave U.K. late in February to transport about 40 "Hurricanes" to Takoradi.
2, 3, 4, 5, 6. Re exchange of aircraft, personnel and stores with ARK ROYAL.
(V.C.N.S. 1403/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Minefield off Johore.

Your 08012/17/1. Proposed area is not concurred in. (Reason).

2. A declaration in the following terms will be broadcast at 1300 G.M.T/16 and will also be published in the Press:-

"H.M.G. give notice that the following area is dangerous to navigation, namely all the area bounded -
on the North by the parallel of 002° 44'N.
on the East by the meridian of 104° 30'E.
on the South by the parallel of 001° 35'N.
on the West by the coast of Malaya.
Mines will be laid in the above area without further notice and vessels wishing to pass through the area must apply to the British Naval Authorities at Singapore for a route. Vessels disregarding these instructions will do so at their risk and peril".

3. Request you will arrange for similar action to be taken at Singapore, and inform Dutch Naval authorities.

4. As declared area includes territorial waters of Johore, Sultan should be informed before publication of declaration, also be told for his personal information that mines will not actually be laid in territorial waters except after prior consultation with him.

6. Minelaying can be commenced as soon as the declaration has been made.

7. In preparing minelaying plan, request you will give consideration to the following points:-.
(Head of M. 0237/14 to C. in C. China).

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

STRATHNAVER
FURIOUS
ALCANTARA
REPULSE

The following ships will be ready to leave the Clyde on 28/2.
SS STRATHNAVER speed 19 knots carrying service personnel for Gibraltar.
FURIOUS for Gibraltar.
ALCANTARA for Freetown.
2. Ocean escort will be provided by REPULSE.
3. C. in C., W.A., is requested to provide A/S escort, arrange air protection and sail ships in accordance with route to be promulgated by Admiralty.
4. ALCANTARA should be detached as convenient routed to Freetown independently.
(A.C.N.S., H. 2144/15, 1109/16)

BATORY
FORTH
RAMILLIES

The following ships will be ready to leave the Clyde for Halifax on 28/2.
SS BATORY speed 19 knots carrying personnel.
FORTH speed 17 knots.
2. Ocean escort will be provided by RAMILLIES after she leaves H.X. 110. R/V at 0900/4/3.
3. C. in C., W.A., requested to arrange A/A protection and to sail the ships in accordance with route to be promulgated by Admiralty.
4. C. in C., W.A., is requested to report whether A/S escort can be provided in view of my 1418/15 (to C. in C., W.A. only) and my 2144/15. If W.A. cannot provide A/S escort C. in C., H.F. is requested to provide to limit of destroyers' endurance. (A.C.N.S. H. 2249/15)

Arrangements for protection of Ocean Convoys

1. It has been decided to provide an ocean escort for every convoy of a battleship, cruiser or submarine.
2. The following are Home Fleet commitments -in the immediate future as far as can be seen.
(a) A cruiser to meet T.C. 9. in accordance with A.M. 1932/7.
(b) A cruiser to escort W.S. 6 B which leaves Clyde 17/2.
(c) An 8" cruiser to meet convoys in about long. 52° W., on 3/3
(d) Two cruisers to escort W.S. 7 leaving U.K. in 3rd week of March.

/3.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

15.2.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Arrangements for protection of Ocean Convoys-Contd.

3. REPULSE is required to dock at Rosyth in the next few days and sail with FURIOUS and a transport leaving Clyde on 28/2. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1232/15 to C. in C., H.F.)

Shipping & Convoys

General

Submarines as Convoy Escorts and for Anti-Raider Operations.

Cancel my 1040/14.
A. Submarine patrol off Ponta Delgada is to be discontinued.
B. TUNA is to escort H.G. 54 to 50° N., subsequently returning to U.K. South of Ireland as directed by F.O.S. O.G. 54 will be escorted by Netherlands S/M O21.
C. 3 submarines of 8th Flotilla, 3 Netherlands submarines and MAIDSTONE will be based at Gibraltar under operational control of F.O.C.N.A., to reinforce North Atlantic escorts of H.G. 55 and O.G. 55 and subsequent convoys. The submarine is to transfer from H.G. to O.G. convoy in company with one of the surface escorts at the point where the convoys will be timed to pass in about 50° N.
D. 8 submarines as detailed by F.O.S. and FORTH are to be based at Halifax under operational control of B.S. 3 and are to escort Eastbound convoys as far as 27° W., returning thence to Halifax independently.
E. Object of these submarines is Anti-Surface Raider.
F. Amended instructions will be issued as to the cruising position of submarines in a convoy when close escorts are present.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1214/15 to F.O.S., F.O.C.N.A. B.S. 3)., (Additions to address 1714/15)

Note. Other addresses were added later. See other copy of signal.

/Admty 1214/15.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

15.2.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Submarines as Convoy Escorts and for Anti-Raider Operations.- Contd.

Admty. 1214/15.
A. Disposition of submarine flotillas will be as follows.
B. Halifax. 2nd Flotilla comprising FORTH, SEVERN, SURCOUF, TRIBUNE, TALISMAN, THUNDERBOLT, TAKU, CACHALOT, PORPOISE.
C. Gibraltar. 8th Flotilla comprising MAIDSTONE, PANDORA, OLYMPUS, OTUS and Netherlands O.21 O.23, O.24.
D. HOLY LOCH. 3rd Flotilla comprising TITANIA, TIGRIS, TUNA, TORBAY, CLYDE, TRIDENT. (F.O. (S) 1459/15 to Admty. etc.)

Admty. 1214/15.
A. Submarines are to be sailed as follows for Halifax.
B. French submarine SURCOUF, THUNDERBOLT, 19/2.
C. TAKU, TALISMAN 24th/2 TRIBUNE 3/3 PORPOISE about 3/3 CACHALOT about 7/3.
D. C. in C. W.A. requested to indicate route to be taken by submarines in para C and position to which they are to be escorted.
E. C. in C. W.A. and C. in C. A. & W.I. are requested to keep submarines informed of movements of own and enemy forces while on the home and A.W. I. Stations respectively.
F. Submarines are to proceed submerged by day while unescorted until reaching 025° W thence on the surface at C.O's discretion. (F.O. (S) 1803/15 to Capt. (S) 2 and 3.)

War Diary
Operations Volume

15.2.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

MALAYA
RENOWN
ARK ROYAL

Request you sail MALAYA to join W.S. 6, a.m./21 in approx. 31° 00' N., 30°30' W., and to continue escort to Freetown.
On relief by MALAYA, RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are to return to Gibraltar.
FAULKNOR and FORESTER may be retained at Freetown to act as escort for MALAYA
(D.O.D., (F) 0115/15 to F.O.C.N.A.)

East Indies

U.S. 9.

My 0932/7 U.S.9 ships NEVASA, SLAMAT, KHEDIVE, ISMAIL WESTERNLAND lifting 5000 troops will be ready to sail 26/2. (S.S.T.O. India, 0530Z/15, 0532Z/15)

Attack by Raider on Convoy S.L.S. 64 on 12/2

S.L. 65
S.L.S. 65
BULOLO
KENYA
SHEFFIELD

SHEFFIELD's 0747/15 and F.O.C.N.A.'s 1252/15. Amend route of S.L.S. 65 as follows:
Add position (I) 30° 00' N., 21° 30' W
Amend position (J) 37° 50' N., 27° 00' W. thence as ordered in S.L. 65 sailing telegram 1033/11 from N.C.S.O. Freetown 2. A.T. 2005/14 para 2. Amend rendezvous to read 30° 46' N., 22° 03' W., and course to read 330°
3. C.S. 10's 2301/14. The convoy may proceed accompanied by BULOLO only from a.m./19 until a.m. 20 but KENYA should remain with convoy until SHEFFIELD joins if margin of fuel should permit.
(D.O.D. (F) 1755/15 to C.S. 10., SHEFFIELD)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Military Convoys.
REPULSE.
FURIOUS.
STRATHNEVER.

My 2144/15. REPULSE will not now arrive Clyde until 2/3. It is requested you will make arrangements for the convoy to sail as soon as REPULSE has fuelled.
(D.O.D.H. 2258/16 to C. in C. W.A).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

KENYA.
S.L. 67.

Admty 2005/14 para 3. (Escort for S.L. 67). Cancel and substitute. KENYA on relief by SHEFFIELD is to proceed to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D.(F) 1222/16 to SHEFFIELD, C.S.10).

South Atlantic.

S.L. 67.
MALAYA.
KENYA.
FAULKNOR.
FORESTER.

Intend that convoy S.L. 67 shall be escorted by MALAYA from Freetown to lat. of Azores and thence to U.K. by KENYA.
2. MALAYA may, if necessary, be brought in ahead of WS 6. and sailed to overtake S.L. 67.
3. FAULKNOR and FORESTER are to proceed to Gibraltar after escorting MALAYA out of Freetown.
4. MALAYA is to return to Gibraltar when relieved by KENYA.
5. C. in C. S.A. is requested to make the necessary arrangements in co-operation with F.O.C. N.A.
(D.O.D.(F) 1727/16 to C. in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A)

North Atlantic & South Atlantic.

Cutting of French Cables.

Consideration being given to cutting -
(A) Brest - Dakar cable in Cape Verde area by Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER.

(B) Brest - Casablanca cable in a position well south of the latitude of Gibraltar and at least 80 miles from the French Moroccan Coast by Cable ship MIRROR.

Request remarks on practical aspect of these suggested operations including provision of protective escort.
(D.O.D.(F) 1934/16 to C. in C. S. A. F.O.C.N.A

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Enemy Vessels in Yemeni Waters.

See Governor Aden's 93 to Colonial Secretary re action to be taken against enemy war vessels or others seeking refuge in Yemeni waters. Am strongly in favour of destruction of war vessels in such circumstances unless political aspect is overriding factor against. If attack authorized, merchant vessels will be captured provided this can be done without using force against the Yemeni. (C. in C. E.I. 0614Z/16 to Admty).

Italian Operations, Importance of Time Factor.

Chiefs of Staff No. 57 to C's in C. Med. M.E. and E.I.
Essential at this moment to do everything possible to deter Japan from adopting a forward policy. Evidence that early liquidation of Italian East Africa might have considerable effect on the Japanese in this direction. We have not the slightest doubt of the soundness of your East African plan, but we think you should be aware of the vital importance of the time factor.
(1. S.L., 1134/16 to C. in C. Med and E.I).

Disposal of Italian Prizes.

Your 1627/15 (captured Italian merchant ships). Following alternatives

(a) Send ships to Bombay with prize crews from H.M. Ships which I consider unacceptable.

(b) Arrange steaming crew provided from India, South Africa, or East Africa, possibilities being explored. Probably be necessary for great majority of Officers to come from U.K.

(c) Steam ships to Bombay with present crews under Armed guard, prize proceedings could presumably be carried out at Bombay instead of Mombasa.

(d) If Mogadishu captured and with it crews of ships reported landed there ex-kaider, these might provide bulk of requirements.

(e) CHRISTIAN HUYGENS leaves Suez 17/2 for Durban via Aden and Mombasa with 700 Naval draft from Mediterranean for U.K. If these may be utilized they could probably steam ships to U.K. or Bombay.

(ii) I prefer alternative (e).
(C. in C. E.I. 1136Z/16 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

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16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

Reduction of Escort and A/S Vessels.

A.M. 0116/15 and my 2052/15. (1) while hoping still further reduction of convoy escort will not prejudice safe arrival of vital supplies to Middle East, Greece etc, I have to bear in mind that there are one or two submarines still active in the confined waters of the Red Sea and that an attack was made as recently as 3/2.

(ii) Withdrawal of these 4 sloops will increase the uncertainty of capturing any enemy merchant vessels escaping from Massawa and Assab.

(iii) Troops and supplies now being moved by sea in connection with Army advance into Eritrea, and it will now be seldom possible to provide any cover for these movements.
(C. in C. E.I. 1240/16 to Admty).

China.

Precautions for protection of Shipping.

As precautionary measure, may become advisable to delay British and Allied shipping proceeding to Japan or Japanese controlled ports.

2. At present no British or Allied ships of over 4000 tons on the China Coast are allowed North of Hong Kong. For Trans-Pacific traffic masters of British and Allied vessels are to be warned confidentially that they should be prepared to turn back to a British or American port on receipt of signal in para 3.

3. Message "Proceed in accordance with instructions" to be sent to individual ships when not more than five days from port of departure.

4. Instructions will be issued by Adty when procedure in para 3 is to be brought into force.
(D.T.D. 1528/16 to C. in C. A.W.I. N.S.H.Q. Ottawa A.C.N.B., N.S.N.B).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

16.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

T.C.9.
ROYAL
SOVEREIGN.

Your 1832/6 and your 1932/7 T.C.9 expected to sail 1800Z/17 routed through 042° 25'N. 050° 00'W. 050° 00' N. 042° 30'W. 055° 00'N. 036°(?00'W. 060° 30') N. 025° 00'W. Speed of advance 14½ knots. Convoy should pass through position A. 060° 30'N. 022° 00'W. steering 90° at 1200Z/24. Request ocean escort to be arranged by C. in C. H.F. may relieve ROYAL SOVEREIGN in 057° 25' N. 031° 21'W. at 0900Z/23. (R.A.3.B.S. 1625/16 to Admty).

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

17.2.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Military Convoys

STRATHNAVER

To be used for voyage sailing from Clyde probably 28/2
2. Voyage will be approximately 7 days in each direction.
3. Embarkation will probably be 27/2.
4. Number to embark probably 2150 military 350 naval and 150 merchant seamen.
5. It is not yet decided whether vessel will be used fully on homeward voyage but at least 200 will be on board.
(D.S.T. 0116/17)

BATORY

BATORY is to be used for voyage commencing probably 28/2 from Clyde.
2. Length of voyage approximately 9 days in each direction.
3. Embarkation will be Gourock on 27/2.
4. Numbers to embark approximately 1200 R.A.F. 328 Canadian Military ineffectives 150 naval personnel and possibly 100 merchant crews. Confirmation will follow later.
5. Ship may be used on return voyage but this is not yet decided, but in any case storing for homeward voyage will be carried out at destination abroad.
(D.S.T. 0117/17)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

17.2.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

TUNA
H.G. 54

Admty. 1214/15 Para B. Request TUNA may be instructed to proceed along parallel of 050° N., to R/V with escort at 0800 B.S.T. in position 290° Pendeen Light eight miles after being detached from H.G. 54 on about 3/3. E.T.A. at R/V to be reported when about 100 miles clear of convoy. TUNA to proceed submerged by day while east of 014° W. (F.O.(S) 1243/17 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Cutting of French Cables

Your 1934/16. Proposed position of cutting Brest Casablanca cable is 034° 42' N., 011° 50' W. MIRROR is now available and Capt. concurs. Consider it important that Brest Dakar cable should be cut at same time. Intend using one trawler as A/S escort but provision and composition of covering force cannot be forecast until date of operation is known. (F.O.C.N.A., 1606/17 to Admty.)

South Atlantic

DELHI to remain at Cape

My 1709/13. In view of circumstances in Far East decided to cancel DELHI refitting at Singapore. Pending further instructions she is to be retained in the Cape area and may be used for the laying of D.G. range in Table Bay. (V.C.N.S., 2350/17 to C. in C., S.A.)

East Indies

FORMIDABLE Operation at Massowa

251. (1) FORMIDABLE will pass Perim for Suez at 1630Z/20 (11) If cloud conditions permit a striking force will carry out a dawn dive bombing attack on naval target at Massowa on 21/2. An attack will not be carried out if cloud conditions are unfavourable.
(111) Strength of Albacore Squadron is now reduced to 12. (C. in C., E.I., 1758Z/17 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

18.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Proposed cutting of cables.

Your 1934/16. There are aerodromes at Dakar St. Louis and St. Etienne, no definite sea reconnaissance known but French A/C have been active 120 miles from Dakar. If out in this area position -
(a) 018° N. 019° W. 210 miles from Dakar most suitable, but detection by A/C possible and cable more easily repaired. Alternative to cut in position
(b) 024° 30' N. 019° W. This position clear of possible air reconnaissance and of Dakar - Casablanca cable, but corvettes could only remain in area 3 days working from Bathurst. Further alternative position (c) about 550 miles West of Gibraltar.
Cable ship would like position of Brest - Dakar cable shown on Chart T 43 confirmed and description of Dakar - Brest and Dakar - Casablanca cables. Two corvettes (?could be provided) but no other force likely to be available for cover.
Possibility of retaliation by French on British cable near St. Vincent - Ascension - Bathurst - presumably considered. French cable ship ALSACE reported working from Dakar. Recommend position (b) taking risk of delay in finding cable, unless consideration be given to (c).
(C.in C. S.A., 2215N/18, to Admty.).

America and West Indies.

T.C.10.

Military Authorities request transport accommodation for total 7800 army and R.C.A.F. personnel ready to sail about 15/3. Requested that to avoid misunderstanding available accommodation on any particular ship should be given without the 25% extra hammock accommodation which has sometimes been included. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1601/18).

MOST SECRET.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

F/B Base, Andamans.

X.69 19/2. Further to Air Ministry signal X. 135 (T.O.O. 1028/25). Facilities now also to be prepared for advanced flying boat base in Andaman Islands. Priority after Nancowry. Request you arrange. (Air Min., 1720/19 to Easfar, Singapore).

America & West Indies.

RAMILLIES.
BATORY.
FORTH.

Your 1705/17. Concur that R/V for RAMILLIES with BATORY and FORTH should be 59° 40' N. 28° 50' W. at 1200 G.M.T. on 3/3.
C. in C. W.A. requested to arrange for destroyer escort to remain with BATORY and FORTH until meeting RAMILLIES, subsequently proceeding to Reykjavik for fuel.
(D.O.D.(H) 1728/19 to R.A.3, C. in C. W.A., RAMILLIES).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

19.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Convoy U.S.10.

My 1137 16/1 (i) U.S.10. In view of Far East situation Australian requirements will now be reduced to 14500 comprising reinforcements and corps troop units details not yet known. New Zealand requirements 6600. In addition R.A.A.F. now require 1050 and R.A.N. 250. Total 22500.
(ii) Proposed U.S.10 consisting of QUEEN MARY, QUEEN ELISABETH (?) AQUITANIA. MAURETANIA, NIEUW AMSTERDAM. If approved propose AQUITANIA proceed Singapore to dock and sail to arrive Sydney 21/3. This will enable AQUITANIA to sail on 29/3. Anticipate other four vessels will also be ready to sail from Sydney on this date. NIEUW AMSTERDAM and MAURETANIA will be used to embark New Zealand troops.
(iii) The onward shipping difficulties from Ceylon and/or India are appreciated but great importance is attached to movement(s) of these reinforcements. Request C.in C. East Indies advise anticipated date of arrival NIEUW AMSTERDAM and MAURETANIA at Fremantle.
(A.C.N.B., 1207Z/19 to D. of S.T., C.in C. E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

20.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Red Sea Convoys.

My 1226/21/1 and my 1316/18/1.
(i) Consequent on reduction in Red Sea Escort Force intend to introduce following Red Sea Convoy programme forthwith.
(ii) B.N.F. and B.N. Convoys will amalgamate and be called B.N. B.N. Convoys will sail from Aden every seven days.
B.N.17 will sail on February 24.
(iii) Similarly B.S.F. and B.S. Convoys will amalgamate and sail from Suez on same day as B.N. Convoys leave Aden.
(iv) Ships under eight knots should be sailed in advance of B.N. and B.S. Convoys so as to obtain cover from convoys in latitude of Massowa. Fast ships sail after B.S. convoys so as to join up with convoys before 019° N.
(v) Convoys will be escorted South of about 019° N. as at present. B.N. convoys to disperse 019° and B.S. convoys in about 044°E. Normal escort two ships.
(vi) Fast north bound troop convoys and fast southbound troop ship convoys will be run in addition to B.N.-B.S. escorted as arranged by C.in C. E.I.
(C.in C. E.I., 07002/20, to S.N.O. Red Sea etc.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

China.

Singapore Conference. — Your 0209/20.
Reply will reach you in next 2 or 3 days but no major redistribution other than in my 1225/27/10/1940 is contemplated.
(1 S.L. 0209/21, to C.in C. China).

South Atlantic.

Troop Movements, EMPIRE TROOPER, DOMINION MONARCH, THYSVILLE, SCYTHIA re-allocations. — (D.S.T. 2259/21, to C.in C. S.A.).

East Indies.

Operation CANVAS. Programme. —
Combined conference held G.H.Q. Kismayu 21/2 S.O. Force T attended.
(ii) Situation. Tumva surrendered. Own forces across Juba river in strength.
(iii) Programme. very approx. D 15 25/2 occupied Brava. D 17 occupied Marca. Probable D 19 before attack on Mogadishu could develop.
(iv) Immediate requirements for D 12, naval bombardment ammunition dump and cross roads Brava area.
SHROPSHIRE will carry this out at 0800Z/22 with co-operation of GLEN MARTIN and fighter aircraft.
Demonstration off Mogadishu not required at present. (C.in C. E.I., 21422/21 to Admty.).

/ U.S.10. ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

21.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

U.S.10.
Summary of
Commitments
U.S.9.
Force Affair
" Belief
" Basin
" Creek

My 2130/17 and C.in C. India's 1686/S.D. Cipher 15.2. to W.O.
2. To facilitate consideration of U.S.10 following is summary of known commitments based on India.
4. Request confirmation if this summary is correct and if so whether estimate given in your 0410/16 of onward conveyance of U.S.10 sent before my 2130/17 can be improved.
(D.S.T., 2300/21, to P.S.T.O. Bombay).

America and West Indies.

N.Z. Air
Personnel,
Escort.

C.in C. A. and W.I. 1301/4. Adty. sympathetic with desire of N.Z. Govt. to provide for safety of passage of Air Force personnel between Auckland and Vancouver.
Considered however that the forces at our disposal insufficient to allow close escort for the whole of the voyage from Suva to Esquimalt.
Admiralty view is that threat from enemy raiders is practically limited to that part of the route which is flanked by the Marshall Islands, i.e. about 2500 miles from Suva, after which by use of evasive routeing it would be most negligible.
Suggest best solution would be to base one A.M.C. on Suva and for her to escort AWATEA and AORANGI for first part of each voyage from Suva to Vancouver.
Undesirability of leaving the west coast of South America unguarded is concurred in.
(D.O.D.(F) 1737/21, to C.in C. A.W.I., N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, N.Z.N.B.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 22.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

CAPETOWN KANDAHAR	My 0716/17 para. three (1) Owing to new escort commitments with convoy proceeding from Bombay to Malaya in March, CAPETOWN will now proceed to Bombay via Seychelles on completion of boiler cleaning to escort U.S.9½ (remainder of U.S.9 troops) leaving Bombay about 5/3. (11) My 0800/19 as (?KANDAHAR) is overdue for boiler cleaning she will boiler clean at Mombasa on relief by (corrupt group) EMERALD and subsequently proceed to Aden. (C.in C. E.I., 1358Z/22, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

23.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Seizure of Allied Ships, Operation "Ration".

Information received that in consequence of our captures of French Merchant Ships the French intend to use Allied ships held in Dakar and Casablanca.
Stated intend to put French crews into ex Danish ships HARALD and ULRIKHOLM (now on British Register) at Dakar and send them to France with West African cargoes. If these ships are sighted passing escorted through the Straits, Adty. may decide that operation "RATION" shall be put into force to recapture. Adty. should be immediately informed and preparations made for the operation.
Norwegian Tanker JASPIS also reported requisitioned by French Adty. If this vessel or HARALD or ULRIKHOLM is sighted unescorted they should, if possible, be brought into a British port.
(Hd. of M. 1953/23, to F.O.C.N.A., V.A. Force H.).

Force V., operations against raider.

If contact pocket battleship is not regained by dark 24/2, my intentions are:-
(1) GLASGOW after fuelling Mauritius to proceed northwards and subject to Adty. approval relieve DORSETSHIRE escorting force Z in R/V to be signalled.
(11) AUSTRALIA to fuel Mauritius and remain in Madagascar Area until required at Simonstown for escort of W.S.6.A.
(111) SHROPSHIRE, HERMES and EMERALD to operate in Seychelles Area for a few days fuelling Port Victoria as arranged by SHROPSHIRE.
(iv) CANBERRA after fuelling Port Victoria to relieve SHROPSHIRE and proceed with HERMES and EMERALD to Colombo. SHROPSHIRE on relief to proceed to Simonstown for refit unless essential for bombardment Italian Somaliland Coast.
(v) CAPETOWN after fuelling Port Victoria to proceed to Bombay reinforcing escort of W.S5.B.X. en route.
(C.in C. E.I., 18282/23 to Force V.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Cover for Convoys H.X.112 S.C.24.

My 1232/15 to C.in C. H.F. only, para. 2(c)
2. Request you will sail cruiser to cover convoys HX 112 and SC 24 from approx. 52° W. in addition to A.M.Cs. already detailed.
3. HX 112 sails from Halifax on 1/3 speed 8½ knots, and will be in position LL 41° 39' N., 52° 51' W. at 1200 G.M.T./4 and in position MM 45° 07' N., 45° 17' W., at 1400 G.M.T./6, in which latter vicinity SC 24 will be overtaken.
4. Onward route will be through:-
NN 50° 17' N., 41° 21' W.
OO 55° 07' N., 36° 20' W.
P 59° 30' N., 25° 00' W.
thence to R/V with A/S escort in position 59° 30' N., 21° 40' W. at 0800/G.M.T./15.
5. SC 24 sails from Halifax 28/2, speed 6½ knots, routed through positions:
VV 42° 40' N., 50° 47' W.
WW 43° 12' N., 47° 38' W.
arriving at XX 44° 50' N., 45° 00' W., at 1400 G.M.T./6 and thence to be stationed 20 miles on the starboard beam of HX 112.
6. From position MM the speed of HX 112 will be reduced to 6½ knots.
7. SC 24 will R/V with the A/S escort in 59° 10' N., 22° 10' W., at 0800 G.M.T./15/3.
(D.O.D.(H) 2204/24 to C.in C. H.F.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

24.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Liaison Mission.

Your 1140/17. Mission already formed, includes representatives of Technical Departments and will probably sail towards end of month.
Mission consists of seventeen under Admiral Sir Wilfred French with rank of Rear Admiral.
For initial consideration proposed scope of work to be undertaken by Navy Department should be based on simultaneous refit and repairs of
One Battleship
One Aircraft Carrier
One Cruiser and
Three Armed Merchant Cruisers.
We have in mind, as a start, refit to FURIOUS and repairs to ILLUSTRIOUS and LIVERPOOL.
(Controller, 1112/24, to N.A. Washington).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

25.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

U.S.10. — My 0555/23. Following proposals suggested for lifting U.S.10.
(S.S.T.O. India, 1245Z/25 to D. of S.T.).

Transfer of Aircraft. — Your 1726/3. Owing to capture of Mogadishu, intend to transfer "CUCUMBERS" and Swordfish Flights from Mombasa to Port Sudan as soon as possible for planting Massawa if required. Captured aerodromes in Eritrea are within Swordfish range Massawa.
(C.in C. E.I., 0702Z/26, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Minings.

Isle de Bas Minefield.

Request very early consideration be given to reinforcing minefield off Isle De Bas.
(ii) This field is well situated but is at present too thin and does not extend far enough to seaward to endanger the direct Ushant Cherbourg traffic.
(iii) Reinforced and extended to seaward this field will compel enemy to either sweep an inshore passage or route his traffic further to seaward both of which courses will give opportunity for offensive action.
(C.in C. Plymouth 1258/27).
Your 1114/27.
While possibility of return to Mozambique Channel exists, possibility that pocket battleship will go to South Atlantic annot be ignored and there is at present no other naval unit of any kind in East South Atlantic until Freetown and no 8-inch cruiser. To meet W.S.6 in time CORNWALL could only move towards Mozambique area for 36 hours at most and then might be behind pocket battleship if she had gone straight round. Do not consider it would be sound to keep CORNWALL East of Cape for this period and intend she shall proceed in accordance with my 1231/25/2.
(C.in C. S.A. 1941N/27, to C.in C.E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

27.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Pocket Battleship, request for CORNWALL.

Although indications were that Pocket Battleship was moving to southeast from Seychelles I cannot ignore possibility of her reappearing shortly in Mozambique Channel. In fact D/F Bearings at 2118Z/26 seem to indicate a German unit some 400 miles S.S.W. of Madagascar. I have only 2 A.M.C's in Durban-Mozambique area and cannot get an 8 inch cruiser there before 3/3. Could CORNWALL move towards this area now and yet comply with Adty. 2507/24 para. C.
(C.in C. E.I., 1114Z/27 to C.in C. S.A. Reply, see South Atlantic 1941/27).

China.

Pocket Battleship N.E.I. Naval dispositions.

Your 2247/24. Following action being taken by Dutch. 3 submarines bound Sabang arrive 1/3. 2 submarines Sunda Strait 28/2. 28/2 aeroplane reconnaissance islands West coast of Sumatra and from Sunda Strait outward. 4 destroyers between Christmas Is. and South coast Java (not yet in position 0521Z/26). TROMP and tanker will be at Port Moresby 2/3 convoying East of Torres Straits.
(C.in C. China, 0251/27, to Admty.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Ile de Bas minefield.

As the minelaying effort of the 20th Flotilla is so limited, it is considered that mines widely dispersed are likely to have more effect than a small concentrated field.
2. For the above reason it is not desired to lay in the Isle de Bas vicinity in the immediate future.
3. Consideration will be given to replacing this field in the next dark night period.
(A.C.E.S. H. 1547/28 to C.in C. Plymouth).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.
Operations Volume.

28.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Orders to
CANBERRA
LEANDER

My 2026/(?)25 and my 0436/28.
(1) Cancel R/V given in my 2026/25.
CANBERRA is to proceed now towards position equator 80 degs. at 15 knots until required to R/V as in para. two.
(11) CANBERRA and LEANDER are to R/V in position 001° 30' S. 075° at 1100Z/2nd March and then patrol at 12 knots between this position and 005° S. 065°.
(C.in C. E.I. 1144Z/28.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operation Volume

1.3.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Re-distribution of Air Forces for protection of East Coast trade.

The attack on our trade west of the United Kingdom has necessitated a re-distribution of Naval and Coastal Command forces in Home Waters which will have the effect of leaving our East Coasts and East Coast trade with a much reduced scale of defence and reconnaissance. Initial redistributions have already been ordered and even more drastic measures may be necessary in the near future.

2. R.A.F. (Bomber and fighter) and Army deployments are being made which will compensate to some extent for the loss of security to our trade and shores by this re-distribution.
(V.C.N.S., 1929/1 to all C's in C at Home)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

1.3.1941.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

W.S. 5 B.X.
ENTERPRISE

My 0746/25. W.S. 5 B.X. will leave Bombay 5/3 for Singapore escorted by ENTERPRISE, speed of advance 19 knots, routed through 010° Channel. F.O.C. R.I.N. is requested to report route and time of departure.
(ii) C. in C., China is requested to provide escort to reinforce ENTERPRISE in about 085° E. R/V will be signalled as soon as possible. ENTERPRISE will continue escort to vicinity of 010° Channel. (C. in C., E.I., 0744Z/1 to F.O.C.R.I.N., C. in C., China, etc.

AUSTRALIA
EMERALD
HERMES

To proceed R/V in position 004° 40' S., 066° E at 0330z/2. (C. in C., E.I., 1152/Z/1 to Force V)

CANBERRA
LEANDER

Cancel my 1152/1. AUSTRALIA, EMERALD and HERMES are to R/V in position Equator 069° E., at 0330Z/2 and proceed in company to Colombo at 15 knots. CANBERRA and LEANDER after making R/V as in my 1144Z/28 are to proceed at 18 knots towards position 008° S 063° E. (C. in C., E.I., 1534Z/1 to Force V)

New Zealand

Convoy
A.V. 5.
PRINCE ROBERT

C. in C., A.W.I., 0952/27. AWATEA convoy A.V. 5 scheduled to leave Suva 26/4 Thereafter cycle is approximately 28 days. Propose PRINCE ROBERT escort ships as far as practicable with regard to endurance subsequently returning to Suva but to Aukland if necessary for (corrupt group) docking and stores. (N.Z.N.B., 0022Z/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

2.3.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Proposed A/S Measures

I intend to institute forthwith offensive A/S sweeps with all the additional long range aircraft made available by recent reinforcements and at the very first opportunity to operate combined air and surface A/S striking forces. These Striking Forces will in the first instance operate in conjunction with convoys, being free to break away from the normal convoy escorts and carry out intensive A/S hunts as opportunity offers. Concurrently with these preliminary operations I intend to start a programme on intensive air and surface A/S training concentrating primarily on perfecting inter-communication between aircraft and surface escorts coupled with A/S and A.S.V. practices. Such training is an essential preparation for the increasing scale of A/S hunting visualised. (C. in C., W.A., 2230/2 to Admty.)

Defence of U.K.

Bristol Channel Coast Defences.

Re. A.L. M 01231/41 dated 11/2/41 Admty. are anxious to establish coast defences for the protection of the Bristol Channel on the line Lavernock - Brean Down using the Islands Flatholm and Steepholm, and siting both dual purpose AA and CD guns and six-inch coast defence guns on both these Islands. (Dacoast Four 1013/2 to Air Ministry)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary
Operations Volume

2.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Escort for W.S. 6.

Admty. 1624/5.
Until there is evidence that SCHEER is no longer in Indian Ocean it is considered necessary for W.S. 6 to have stronger escort than CORNWALL and PHOEBE. after Cape.
Desired to release BIRMINGHAM so that she may be available to catch up and escort S.L. 70 to U.K.
C. in C., E.I. is therefore requested to accelerate DORSETSHIRE's programme so that after self-refit she may be readyto escort the Capetown portion of W.S. 6 after it has completed fuelling; estimated date 24th/3. (D.O.D., (F) 1649/2 to C. in C., S.A., C. in C., E.I.)

East Indies

Enemy Vessels in Yemeni Waters

Your 0614/16. Owing to poor anchorages it is considered unlikely that enemy will try to lay up many vessels in Yemeni or Saudi Arabian waters, but since some may seek temporary sanctuary there, naval and air forces are authorised to attack enemy warships and to intercept merchant ships within territorial waters provided that -
(a) this can be done without using force against the Yemeni or Saudi Arabians.
(b) care is taken not to endanger life and property ashore.

2. Essential that whenever possible merchant vessels should be captured rather that sunk. For reasons of prize law capture should, for preference, take place outside territorial waters.

Possible use of Jibuti.

Possibility that warships and merchant ships may seek Jibuti. This would raise serious difficulties, and as it is essential to destroy or capture the warships and capture the merchant vessels you should consult A.O.C. and C.O.C. M.E. with a view to maintaining adequate air reconnaissance of Massawa harbour.

/4.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

2.3.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

4. Attacks and interceptions may also be carried out in territorial waters of French Somaliland subject to similar restrictions to those mentioned in para 1 and provided that H.M. Ships and aircraft endeavour as far as possible to avoid incidents with French Shore batteries, aircraft or warships. (Head of M. Branch Approved by 1st Lord 0135/2 to C. in C., E.I.)

Disguised Freighters

Decided that disguised freighters are to cease activities forthwith, hoist white ensign and pendant, crew to wear uniform only, for the following main reasons:
(i) When Germans realise that freighters are operating against them they may as retaliation attack British ships and possibly all ships at long range, sink them outright and even leave crews in open ocean.
(ii) As freighters have not made any contacts the risk to British shipping is not considered justifiable.

2. Freighters have been informed and directed to proceed as follows:
CITY OF DURBAN to Mauritius to complete with coal and then to Durban for docking.
CAPE SABLE to Colombo.
BOTLEA direct to Colombo. KING GRUFFYD to remain at Durban.

3. Freighters have been ordered to keep guns concealed both at sea and in harbour, but in event of contact with enemy raider to act offensively selecting most suitable time at which to disclose offensive armament.

6. So that the future employment of these ships may be decided C. in C., E.I. and C. in C., S.A., are to report any proposals for employing them on their stations. Appears possible they might be useful as convoy escorts in Red Sea and to assist in rounding up enemy merchant ships breaking out of Massawa. (A.C.N.S.,(F) 2116/2. to C. in C., E.I., C. in C., S.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

5.3.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Operation CLAYMORE

Following details amplifying my 1623/4
(1) All planned tasks were carried out completely by Military and some additional ones of importance.
(2) Following ships sunk: HAMBURG 9780 tons which was fully accommodated and about to sail, 7 other German M/S's, 1 Norwegian M/S, 1 armed trawler and 1 unarmed trawler. Total tonnage 18,000 approx.
(3) German prisoners taken Navy 19, Army 7, Air Force 172, Merchantmen sailors and civilians 172. Also 10 Norwegian quislings. 1 German N.O. and 6 ratings killed.
(4) 314 Norwegian Volunteers embarked including 8 women.
(5) No damage or casualties to our Forces. Military report of reception ashore most friendly.
(6) P,C and S of Force REBEL at 1800 064° 25' N., 003° 04' W., 190° 20 knots C.S. 18 in EDINBURGH and NIGERIA are in company.
Admiralty pass to D.C.O.
(Capt. D. 6. 1804/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

Correction of my 1804. German merchant ship HAMBURG was used as Factory ship and was not believed to sail. (Capt. D.6. 1025/5 to C. in C., H.F.)

My 1804 Passengers are disposed as follows Some Hospital Cases.
Request direct disembarkation Thurso may be considered if practicable. Congestion in QUEEN EMMA is severe.
(Capt. D. 6. 1821/5 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

5.3.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Operations "Tender", Summer. REPULSE FURIOUS DRAGON.

Admty. 2144/15/2.
On completion of operation "Tender" intend that REPULSE should escort FURIOUS to Freetown.
As it is undesirable that REPULSE should accompany FURIOUS for operation "Summer" C. in C., S.A. is requested to make DRAGON available for this duty.
3. From the time of REPULSE's approach to Freetown until FURIOUS' final departure from that port it will be necessary for two further destroyers to be at disposal of C. in C., S.A. F.O.C. N.A. is requested to arrange for these from 13th or 8th Flotilla. This might be a convenient opportunity for changing round the "VEES"
4. It is important that FURIOUS should complete both operations with the minimum of delay.
(D.O.D. (F) 1303/5 to F.O.C.N.A. C. inC., S.A.)

South Atlantic

Falklands Defences

My anxiety for security of the only base for S.A. Division is considerably increased. With number of enemy raiders known to be at large, possibility of attack cannot be ignored.
I consider the minimum additional defence requirements to provide sufficient deterrent against attack are (a) either one 6" gun ranging at least 18000 yards or an obsolescent ship with guns of equivalent effective range. Latter solution preferable. (b) immediate provision of 12 Bren guns already requested, this being augmented by a platoon of Bren carriers when available.
(c) 2 open sea type flying boats would provide necessary reconnaissance, some striking power and defence against minor air operations.
(R.A.S.A.D., 1342Z/5 to C. in C., S.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

6.3.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation S.N. 4.

R.A. (M)'s 1902/3/3/41.
Consideration should be given to siting the Southern end of S.N. 4 in position:- 60° 22' 30" N., 05° 55' 30" W.
This would open the gap between S.N. 4 and S.N. 3. for our forces without materially affecting the difficulties of U-Boats approaching from Muckle Flugga.
Request your early remarks. (V.C.N.S. 1233/6 to R.A.M.)
Intend to carry out operation S.N. 4 as follows. (Ships, position, date etc.)
(R.A.M.L. 2153/6)

Shipping & Convoys

Military Convoys

BRITANNIA
THEMISTOCLES
CITY OF HONG KONG

Merchant ships with service personnel will be ready to leave U.K. for Freetown as follows:-
From Liverpool 11th March. BRITTANIA 14½ knots. THEMISTOCLES, 13 knots. CITY OF HONG KONG, 12½ knots.
2. C. in C. W.A., is requested to arrange A/S escort and to sail ships.
3. The ships will proceed independently after A/S escort leaves.
4. Admty will provide route.
(D.O.D., H. 1904/6)

Ships with Service Personnel

2. C. in C., W.A. is requested to arrange A/S escort and to sail on 18/3 escorted by SHEFFIELD., HIGHLAND MONARCH LARGS BAY from Swansea.
MAIDSTONE, NAPIER, NIZAM and BULOLO from Clyde and DUNNOTTAR CASTLE from Belfast
3. LARGS BAY with DONNOTTAR CASTLE and BULOLO as ocean escort will part company and proceed to Freetown.
4. SHEFFIELD, MAIDSTONE, HIGHLAND MONARCH, NAPIER and NIZAM are to proceed to Gibraltar.
5. F.O.C.N.A. is requested to sail HIGHLAND MONARCH escorted by NAPIER and NIZAM from Gibraltar for Freetown as soon as they are ready.
6. Admty. will issue routes for MAIDSTONE, HIGHLAND MONARCH, and escorts to Gibraltar and for LARGS BAY with DUNNOTTAR CASTLE and BULOLO to Freetown. (D.O.D. H. 1905/6)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

7.3.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Bay of Biscay Submarine patrol

Ref. C.I.C. report no 279 para 3.
Propose that Bomber Command should be asked to attack oil tanks and shipping in St. Nazaire at first opportunity.
(ii) Propose also that submarine patrols in Bay of Biscay should be reinstated as these provide only means of attacking enemy shipping in that area.
(C. in C., Plymouth 1333/7)
C. in C. Plymouth 1333/7 para 2. A submarine will be sailed for the Bay of Biscay patrol on March 17 which is the earliest date on which a submarine is available. The number of submarines available at present will allow of one being maintained in this area from then onwards. (F.O.S. 1643/7)

Operation of submarines from Iceland

Request you will signal your remarks on the practicability of operating submarines from a base in Iceland.
(D.O.D. (H) 1932/7 to F.O.I.C., Iceland)

Shipping & Convoys

General

Escort for H.X. and S.C. Convoys.

Decided that all H.X. and S.C. convoys are to be provided with ocean escort of a Battleship, Cruiser or Submarine in addition to an A.M.C. as at present.
A.M.C's will continue to provide escort for H.X.B. convoys.
Anticipated that with the forces now at your disposal these commitments can be met, If, however, occasion arises when this is not possible other resources may have to be drawn upon.
Requested you will signal proposed provisional programme.
(D.O.D., (H) 1343/7 to R.A. 3.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

7.3.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Former Disguised Freighters	Your 2116/2. Suggestions for use. (C. in C., S.A., 1239N/7 to Admty.)

China

N.E.I. Navy Patrols.	My 0251/27 (submarine patrols and air reconnaissance by Dutch) C. in C Netherlands E.I. reports 7/3 4 destroyers from Java South coast to Sunde Island if available to watch Straits between Lombok Strait and Wetar Strait in co-operation with seaplane. (C. in C., China 1431Z/7 to A.C.N.B., amended 0311Z/8)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.3.1941.
SATURDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation D.N. Interception of TARONGA and BOCKENHEIM.

Admty's 0205/1 and 1130/6. Intend to carry out operation D.N. with primary object of intercepting these ships, should they make passage from Lister to Jaedereus during night 11/12 March.

(ii) Request special R/C on 11/3 and 12/3 if operation is postponed.

(iii) If R/C does not find these ships or any other suitable target, raiding force will not proceed in to coast and operation may be postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. H.F. 1531/8).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Perim patrol, Freighters FLAMINGO, AUCKLAND.

Admty. 0003/8. (i) A Perim Patrol of varying strength has always been maintained. Recently, due to reduction in Red Sea and Aden Forces, the speed up of convoys and co-operation with military on Eritrean Coast, CHAKDINA or CHANTALA have been the only ships available for the purpose. Steps have been taken to increase it whenever possible and further help from R.A.F. has been asked for to warn S.N.O. Red Sea Force of movements of shipping and naval units.

(ii) CAPE SABLE and BOTLEA will arrive Aden 17/3 (corrupt group) and 20/3 respectively. The other 2 freighters are employed in connection with Admty. 1539/2.

(iii) Beside Perim patrol and almost continuous escorts which have been drastically reduced of late, some cover has to be provided forsupply service

/to army

OPERATIONS VOLU ME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Perim
Patrol,
Freighters,
FLAMINGO,
AUCKLAND.

to army on Eritrean coast and provision made for operation "Appearance" taking place shortly and possibly Marie soon afterwards.

(iv) Hope it will not be found necessary to withdraw FLAMINGO and AUCKLAND until mobile units at Massawa and Assab have been fixed. Freighters with 8 or 9 knots are hardly suitable substitutes.
(C.in C. E.I. 1202Z/8 to Admty).
Amended 0450Z/11.

America and West Indies.

H.X. and
S.C.
Convoys.

Your 1347. Requirements cannot be immediately met. Excluding normal refits the following ships have recently been unable to adhere to programme due to weather damage on western passage or other urgent defects etc. LETITIA, LACONIA, RANPURA, AUSONA, RAJPUTANA, SEVERN, and French Cruiser-Submarine SURCOUF. I have at present the following ships serviceable and available. Battle ships, two out of three. Cruisers nil. Submarines one. A.M.C. 11 out of 18. Requirements have only just been met up to the present by eliminating A.M.C's when battleships escort convoys and by asking C.in C. A.W.I. to assist in escorting B H X Convoys with R.C.N. A.M.C. provisional programme which is dependent on the requirements of a battleship for T.C.10 and on completion date for other vessels will be signalled later. Immediate tentative proposal for escorts are as follows:- S.C.25, LACONIA and THUNDERBOLT. H.X.114 CHITRAL. H.X.115 RAMILLIES and CALIFORNIA. Expect that TRIBUNE and SURCOUF will be available for S.C.26 and H.X.116 respectively.
(F.O.3.B.S.0751/8 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.3.1941.
SUNDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Operating Submarines from Iceland.

Admty. 1932/7. Consider operation quite practicable from Hvalfjord Anchorage. Small depot ship required which should bring strong permanent moorings, depth of water 8 fathoms. (F.O.Iceland, 1537/9).

Mining.

Operation S.N. 68B.

My 2153/6. Intend to carry out S.N.68B as follows.
(R.A.M.L. 0217/9).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Escorts for S.L. H.G. O.G. Convoys, Operation "Summer".

A. It is intended to provide Battleship scale of escort for S.L. Convoys. H.G. and O.G. convoys must rely on S/M escort.

B. Movement of FURIOUS to Takoradi must not be delayed, but transfer of aircraft to ARK ROYAL will have to take place later.

C. The following movements are, therefore, to take place:-

1. ARETHUSA is to return to Gibraltar forthwith and is to accompany SHEFFIELD and STRATHMORE to U.K.

2. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are to take over escort of S.L.67 from MALAYA p.m. 10th and MALAYA is then to return at best speed to Freetown to fuel and strengthen escort of S.L.68.

3. REPULSE, FURIOUS and two destroyers from Gibraltar are to proceed to Freetown as soon as ready, and complete operation SUMMAR as arranged. REPULSE will be required initially for S.L.69.

/4.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

9.3.1941.
SUNDAY.

OPERATIONS. VOLUME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Escorts for S.L. H.G. O.G. Convoys, Operation "Summer" (Contd.)

4. Sailing of S.L.68 may be delayed if necessary so that fullest value may be obtained from MALAYA'S support. Further signal will follow. (A.C.N.S(F) 1416/9).

East Indies.

Defence of Supply Base at Mersa Kuba.

Admty's. 1333/4 (one) southward advance on Massawa will probably entail shortly a progressive supply base at Mersa Kuba. Considered desirable to land two guns as coast defence. Understand military unable to provide field guns (two) if Kaid confirms above, and C.in C. M.E. could temporarily spare them. propose diverting two 3.7" howitzers ex Ceylon for this purpose 'three) no ammunition available. Can M.E. Supply. (C.in C. E.I. 0718Z/9).

America and West Indies.

H.X. Convoy Escorts.

My 1343/7. Decided that while German Battle Cruisers are at large all H.X. Convoys are to be provided with battleship escort in addition to A.M.C. and submarine when available. KING GEORGE V and RODNEY are sailing 9/3 in accordance with A.M. 0058/9. REVENGE will rejoin your command very early in April. Request you signal your proposed future programme. (D.O.D.(H) 1325/9 to R.A.3.B.S.)

MOST SECRET.

10.3.1941.
MONDAY.

WAR DIARY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Dummy Minefield in Small Bab el Mandeb Straits.

A dummy minefield of sand filled drums without moorings has been laid by aircraft 056°. Obstruction Point Perim 9 cables. Object is to bluff enemy ships attempting to escape from Massawa into using large straits only. Informations will probably reach enemy through Bazaars etc., but to make sure request following L shaped area outside water (Yemeni) be declared dangerous. Between lines joining (a) 012° 38'N., 043° 26'E. (b) 012° 38'N., 043° 30'E., (c) 012° 40'N., 043° 30'E. and parallel lines half a mile to south and east. (C.in C. E.I., 1054/10 to Admty).

America and West Indies.

H.X.Convoy escorts, RAMILLIES, RODNEY, KING GEORGE V.

RAMILLIES will not be available for H.X.114 or 115. RODNEY and KING GEORGE V's programme to be adjusted as follows. RODNEY is to join and escort H.X.114 from approx. 49° W. joining about 1200 G.M.T./15. Subsequently H.X.114 overtakes S.C.25 at about 2300 G.M.T./16 the two convoys proceeding thereafter on parallel routes 20 miles apart at the same speed.
KING GEORGE V is to be detached in accordance with C.in C. H.F's 1855/9 R.A.3. requested to arrange for her to escort H.X.115. R.A.3. requested to inform RODNEY and KING GEORGE V of estimated positions and routes of convoys and to arrange position and time of RODNEY's R/V with H.X.114. (D.O.D.(H) 1946/10 to R.A.3. RODNEY),

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
TUESDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Proposed Minelaying Programme.

1. Intend 20th D.F. to carry out following minelaying programme in the March dark period.

(a) (b) Embark mines at Portsmouth on 18/3 proceed to Dartmouth or Plymouth, and lay off Isle de Bas under the direction of C.in C. Plymouth. Reload at Portsmouth.

(c) Lay on Havre-Barfleur route, reload at Portsmouth.

(d) If practicable, lay on the Boulogne-Dieppe route returning to Portsmouth on completion.

2. Gun armament will be retained and reduced outfits of mines embarked for all operations. INTREPID and ICARUS will embark taut wire measuring gear.
(D.D.O.D.(M) 1237/11).

12.3.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

MALAYA, MAURITIUS.

Your 1149/12. Intend MAURITIUS shall relieve MALAYA 26/3 in approx. 037° N., 027° W.
(C.in C. S.A. 1117N/12 to Admty).

/East Indies.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.3.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Massawa, proposed operation.

Understand army advance on Massawa will soon require supply base at Mersa Kuba. Ships while on passage and while unloading will be exposed to surface attack from Italian destroyers at Massawa. S.N.O. Red Sea will provide such naval protection as he can spare but surest protection is destruction of destroyers in harbour beforehand. Can you undertake this early in spite of heavy demands on your aircraft? Failing destruction beforehand, I would be grateful for air R/C against surface attack and air protection during passages and unloading of supplies. (C.in C. E.I. 0752Z/12 to A.O. C.in C. M.E.)

13.3.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H.F. Battleships. Intentions.

Provided ROYAL SOVEREIGN and REMENGE can escort convoys H.X.116 and H.X.118 respectively anticipate Home Fleet capital ships can provide escorts as follows: H.X.115 KING GEORGE V H.X. 117 HOOD H.X.119 RODNEY T.C.10 QUEEN ELIZABETH.

(ii) I hope to dock NELSON about 26/3 or 1/4 depending on the situation.

/(iii).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.3.1941.
THURSDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

H.F. Battle-ships. Intentions.

(iii) This plan results in one capital ship only being available at Scapa during greater part of March, I am prepared to accept this but it is desirable she should be a fast ship and I therefore intend to transfer my flag to KING GEORGE V on her return. (C.in C. H.F. 2003/13 to Admty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Raider Intelligence.

CANBERRA 1805/7. (d) Steward Wolff gives following information. (a)* ADMIRAL SCHEER is proceeding south to contact a Whaling Fleet (see CANBERRA 1805/7 para 10(b))and a provision ship which has already left home waters. A possible date for R/V is the end of March. (b) German ship TANNENFELS is also called TONI (CANBERRA 1805/7 para. one does not agree) and is making for Germany or Norway with loot 60 Officer prisoners on board (c) A British Tanker Line tanker which Wolff named ADVOCATE is now in German hands in Indian Ocean carries petrol and prisoners and is en route for Germany or Norway. (ii) Statement in (c) above probably agree with facts as BRITISH ADVOCATE is an overdue and was in ADMIRAL SCHEER's vicinity the day before *was sunk. I therefore grade Wolff's evidence as A.O. * CANADIAN CRUISER.
(iii) Wolff has been separated from other prisoners at his own request. (C.in C. E.I. 1132Z/13 to A.C.N.B. etc).

MOST SECRET.

13.2.1941.
THURSDAY.

WAR DIARY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Anglo-Dutch Conference.

Following from Chiefs of Staff for C.in C. F.E. C.in C. China, and C.in C. E.I.

Pending receipt of full report following are our views of telegraphic report of Anglo-Dutch-Australian Conference.
We are in general agreement with the report, with following exceptions:-

(a) Assurance of military co-operation with Dutch in event of Japanese agression. This question is in abeyance.

(b) Prior definition of act of war and automatic reaction thereto without reference to London. While appreciating reasons underlying these proposals, we consider that the step which should be held to constitute an act of war by Japan could only be decided by H.M.G. in the light of circumstances at the time, and that attitude of the U.S.G. will be all-important.

(e) Arrangements for re-assembling conference. Providing Agenda is confined to military questions within scope of accepted policy we agree with proposed procedure, but if questions of policy are to be discussed, prior reference to the Govts. concerned is essential.

4. We note that a common policy as regards denial of oil is receiving consideration.

5. We are in agreement with your proposals regarding participation of N.E.I in the Eastern Group Supply Council.
(1st S.L. 1206/13 to C.in C. China, C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.3.1941.
FRIDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

A.T. 1746/9. para.6. Ocean escort to Freetown is to be provided by a cruiser from Home Fleet with capital ship support as follows:-
(2) REVENGE from U.K. to R/V Zithen to Halifax direct with S.S. GEORGIC.
(3) RENOWN and ARK ROYAL from R/V Z to Freetown.
(4) R/V Z is established in 40° 30'N., 29° 05' W. at 1000Z+2/27.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 2016/14).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Africa Coast Defence.

Presence of German battle cruisers within thousand miles of Freetown recently has brought to mind once more that at present apart from ships that may be in harbour only deterrent to bombardment from seaward from a range outside 12,000 yards is ALBATROSS Walrus aircraft 9.2 guns will not be in full operation for some months and at present there is no ammunition for them.
(C.in C. S.A. 1405N/14 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

14.3.1941.
FRIDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

U.S. Aircraft. Types for carriers.

Ref: No.X.6619 from Air Attache Washington, to Air Ministry, (Slessor No.16 to C.A.S.). If our aircraft carriers were supplied with same types of aircraft as are carried in U.S. carriers we should equip them as follows:-

1. Aircraft Carrier stationed at Gibraltar. Might be used either in Western Mediterranean or in Atlantic.

(a) If used in the Mediterranean, a large proportion of fighters is necessary and the following would be carried:
2 fighter squadrons, Iscout bomber squadron, 1 torpedo bomber squadron.

(b) If used in the Atlantic: 1 fighter Squadron, 2 scout bomber squadron, 1 torpedo bomber.

2. If used on the trade routes: Same as for 1(b).
(1st S.L. 2245/14 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.3.1941.
SATURDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

F.D.31.

To be carried out 24/3 by CACHALOT.
Details.
(F.O.S. 1102/15 to S.3.)

Shipping and Convoys.

H.X. and
S.C.Convoys.
T.C.10.

A.M. 1325/9. Decided to accept convoys H.X.116 and S.C.26 proceeding without a battleship, and that two submarines should provide escort, one accompanying each convoy.
Arrangements for escorts for other North Atlantic convoys are as follows:-

(a) H.X.115 KING GEORGE V, then return to Scapa.
(b) H.X.117 ROYAL SOVEREIGN.
(c) H.X.118 HOOD, then return to Scapa.
(d) H.X.119 RODNEY, then return to Scapa.
(e) H.X.120 REVENGE or RAMILLIES.
(f) T.C.10. QUEEN ELIZABETH.

3. C.in C. H.F. is requested to sail H.F. units and issue necessary instructions for proceeding to Halifax.

4. R.A.3rd B.S. is requested to:-
issue necessary orders for ships while on convoy duty and take necessary action to ensure two S/Ms. being available for H.X.116 and S.C.26 THUNDERBOLT being recalled now if necessary.
(D.O.D.(H) 0011/15 to C.in C. H.F. R.A.3.)(amended 1346/15.)

America and West Indies.

Transport
of
R.C.A.F.
personnel.

Your 1603/11 R.C.A.F. now agree to transport of their personnel to U.K. via Iceland in A.M.Cs.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1752/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.3.1941.
SUNDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

Home Commands.

Mining.

Operation G.U.

Intention. R.A.F. Squadron to lay mines on a line extending for 3.5 miles in a general direction 000° from 048° 56'N., 003° 56'W. (ii) Force taking part, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE.((iv) to (x) Method of execution etc.) (iii) Date: Night 19/20 March, 1941.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2033/16) See amendment 1020/18.

18.3.1941.
TUESDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.U.

My 2033/16. Amendment. Forces taking part 20th D.F. Position amended.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1020/18).
Available ships 5th D.F. and M.L's from Dartmouth are to cover this Operation. (ii) Four M.L's are to patrol the longitude of 3° 10'W. between 049° 55'N., and 049° 25'N., from 2030/19 to 0400/20. (iii) 5th D.F. are to leave Plymouth passing gate at 1930/19 and proceed to arrive 048° 57'N., 004° 25'W. at 2330/19 and thence sweep westwards returning to Plymouth at 0730/20 (iv) A.S.V. fitted aircraft will patrol to N.W. Ushant to cover possible movements to North and East from Brest (v).
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1334/18).
C.in C. Plymouth's 2033/16. Intend 20th D.F. leave Dartmouth at 1930/19 to carry out operation G.U.

/2.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

18.3.1941.
TUESDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

2. Departure will be taken from Start Point at 2030/19 laying commencing at about 0040/20.

3. The following subsequent movements are proposed.

A. Force to return to Dartmouth passing Start Point at 0630/20.

B. Remain at Dartmouth for night of 20/21 March.

C. Sail from Dartmouth so as to arrive Portsmouth daylight/22 and embark mines.

D. Carry out next operation night of 22/23 March.
(D.20. 1411/18).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration".

Admty 2255/13. It is necessary to sail only four available destroyers p.m./19 to screen RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to Gibraltar. Adequate forces will not therefore be available for operation "Ration" until about 26/3 when screen returns from escorting Force H Westward to comply with Admty 2016/14.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1650/18 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

19.3.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Operation G.W.

Admty 2208/13. Short title for operation will be G.W. (ii) date of sailing will be 27/3 subject to suitable weather conditions (iii) sibject to your concurrence route will be (details).
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1825/19).

20.3.1941.
THURSDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Military Convoys.

Clyde to Iceland Ferry Service.

My 1931/17.
1. Ships allocated - ROYAL SCOTSMAN and S.S. ROYAL ULSTERMAN, both 16 knots.

2. Outward bound convoy will be known a convoy D.S. return convoy SD.

3. Escort - two destroyers from 17th div. as detailed by R.A.M., except for DS one and SD one for which separate arrangements have been made.

4. The first sailing Convoy DS one, will leave Clyde p.m./2/4. Subsequent sailings will be at 14 day intervals.

5. War Office will be reasponsible for embarkation and disembarkation arrangements at Clyde.

6. F.O.I.C. Greenock, will be responsible for the organisation and sailing of the DS convoys, and C.in C. W.A. is requested to provide route.

/7.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

20.3.1941.
THURSDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Clyde to Iceland Ferry Service. (Contd.)

7. The period in Reykjavik should be the minimum necessary for disembarkation embarkation and fuelling.

8. Fighter protection code words are allocated as follows - DS convoys - PRODUCT. SD Convoys - STANDARD, (A.C.N.S.(H) 1519/20).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

W.S.8. Your 2211/19. (Sailing date W.S.8) Date 22/4. approx. only. (D.O.D.(F) 1305/20 to C.in C. S.A.)

22.3.1941.
SATURDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation by ABDIEL. My 1300/22.

1. Intention is to lay mines in groups on a line extending for 10 miles in direction 048° from 48° 36'N., 9° 14'W..

Minefields described in 246 Q.Z.X. and 259 Q.Z.X. should be given a berth of ten miles.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation by ABDIEL. (Contd.)

2. Operation to be carried out on night of 23/24 March or as soon after as practicable.

3. Minelayer ABDIEL.

4. Mines.

5. ABDIEL has not completed acceptance trials and her maximum safe speed must be considered as four-fifths power.

6. C.in C. Plymouth is requested to allocate a short title and issue the orders for the operation, and to arrange air support observing the ship is not worked up.

7. On completion ABDIEL is to be directed to return to Plymouth or Milford Haven. A second outfit of mines will be held at the latter port in readiness for a further operation. (V.C.N.S. 2216/22).

F.D.31.
F.D.32.

Cancel F.D.31. Proceed by route previously ordered and thence through 45° N., 03° W. Mines to be scattered in groups within 3 miles of 45° 37'N., 01° 35'W. Number of operation is F.D.32. Subsequent movements will be ordered later.
(F.O.S. 2244/22 to CACHALOT).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.3.1941.
SUNDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Measures to counter German Battlecruisers.

The following action and dispositions are being taken to counter the threat of German battlecruisers.

RECONNAISSANCE.

(a) Visual and photographic R/C of all possible anchorages have been arranged. The weather conditions up to the present have resulted in no information being obtained.

(b) R/Cs. to the westward (of which authorities) will be kept informed) to cover a possible break-out are being arranged as soon as aircraft are operationally effective. Considerable damage as a result of airraids on Plymouth have temporarily reduced the number of long distance aircraft available.

AIR ATTACK.

(c) Heavy bomber attack will be carried out by night, and by day when weather conditions admit, as soon as the enemy ships are located in harbour. Mining by aircraft will continue in near approaches to Biscay ports.

Part 2 follows.
(1st S.L. 1507/23).

My 1507. Part 2.
SURFACE FORCES.

(d) HOOD leaves Scapa 23/3. and is proceeding to patrol to the westward of the Bay of Biscay. She has been ordered to shift her area of operations continuously, to prevent U/Boat attack being directed on to her by enemy aircraft. HOOD will remain on patrol until the arrival of Force "H".

(e) 5th D.F. (5 ships) is concentrated at Plymouth.

/Submarine

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.3.1941.
SUNDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

SUBMARINE DISPOSITIONS.

(f) A close patrol of 4 submarines will be established off the port where the enemy is located. Submarines are now proceeding into the Biscay area.

Subsequently this patrol will be replaced by about 12 submarines disposed on an arc of approx. 240 miles from St. Nazaire. Anticipate that these 12 submarines will be in position by 27/28 March.

MINING.

(a) CACHALOT before going on patrol is laying a field near 45° 37'N., 01° 35'W.

(b) ABDIEL is laying a field near 48° 36'N., 09° 14'W.

(c) 20th D.F. is laying a field near 48° 12'N., 05° 10'W.
Fields (a) and (b) will be laid by 24/3. and it is anticipated field (c) should be laid by 26/3.
(1st S.L. 1511/23).

Mining.

Operation G.V.

Operation G.V. intention: (as V.C.N.S. 2216/22/3).

(iii) Date: Night 23/24 March, 1941.

(v) Escort; KIPLING, KASHMIR, from Plymouth to Bishop's Rock and return.

(vi) Execution:

(viii) ABDIEL has full discretion to postpone on cancel the lay or to jettison mines in a safe condition if circumstances require.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1257/23).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

23.3.1941.
SUNDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.
Mining.

Operation S.N.4.

Intend to carry out S.N.4. as follows.

(a) Surface minefield from N. to S.
(D) 1 (one) SOUTHERN PRINCE, MEMESTHEUS PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, CASTLETON, CHARLESTON, ST. MARYS, LANCASTER (D) 2. 2 of 2nd C.S.(F) from 060° 44' 48" N. 006° 33' 36" W. to 060° 19' 36" N., 006° 04' 48" W. (G) 1015/25.

(j) Through following positions.
Remarks. Squadron will venture in the vicinity of field until 1930/26 to observe for prematures.
(R.A.M.L. 2349/23).

24.3.1941.
MONDAY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CAIRNDALE to fuel Force H at sea.

F.O. Force H's 0537/24. CAIRNDALE is to be sailed as soon as practicable for fuelling Force H at sea. She is to patrol a line 60 miles 070° from 32° 30'N., 32° 30'W. This R/V is to be known as "PEDESTAL".
CAIRNDALE is to be warned that vigilance is necessary as enemy units and supply ships may be using the same area.
She is to be fitted with scuttling charges before sailing.
Meteorlogical reports show that fuelling at sea should be possible on two days out of four in an area 250 miles each side of a line 260° from 27½ N., 25° W.
(1751/24 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

25.3.1941.
TUESDAY.

WAR DIARY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.X.

Area in which mines are to be laid is to be shifted five miles to the southward. Supporting force is not to operate to the Eastward of the minelayers when south of Ushant. (V.C.N.S. 1205/25).
Intention. to lay mines between parallels 048° 01'N., and 048° 13'N., and meridians 005° 10'W., and 005° 19'W.

2. Force taking part 20th D.F. - KELLY, KASHMIR, JACKAL, KELVIN - Escort.

3. Date. Night of 26th/27th March.

5. Execution:

6. Air co-operation: Diversionary bombing of Brest from 2300/26 to 0300/27 has been requested. Fighter protection will be arranged from time of leaving harbour till dark/26 and from 0700/27 till return to harbour.

8. General:
(C.in C. Plymouth, 2020/25).

Foreign Stations.

North Atlantic.

Force H, Policy re employment on Convoy routes Ushant - Lisbon Area.

Your 1931/24. (1) Not considered that shore based air R/C can be relied on to detect departure of enemy in time for the action you suggest.

(2) With submarine patrols now being established it may be hoped that information as to enemy's departure

/may be

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

may be received from this source.

(3) Consider that Force H should normally operate outside area of enemy shore based air R/C both to deny enemy knowledge of its presence and to provide security against attack by submarines.

(4) Force H. alone can give any measure of security to H.G., O.G., and S.L. Convoys in this area.

(5) It is consequently considered that Force H should operate generally near the convoy routes between the latitude of Ushant and Lisbon.
(1st S.L. 2249/25 to S.O.Force H).

East Indies.

Reunion proposed operation.

It is the intention to source adherence of Reunion to Free French cause and an operation conducted by the Free French has been authorised with this object. Operation will not take place for some weeks and you will be informed of further details. In the meantime policy in para. (iii) of your 1106/7/2 should be followed.
(Head of M. 1607/25 to C.in C. E.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

26.3.1941.
WEDNESDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Western Patrol Extension.

My 2001/19. In order to intercept shipping proceeding to French West Coast ports it is intended to establish a patrol near 45° N., and between 25° - 30° W.

2. For this purpose, 4 new patrol areas are to be established by the addition on the same bearing, to the Northward of A1 - A2 of new areas X1, X2, and Z1, Z2. Areas are to be one degree deep and X1, X2 the most Northerly.

3. With the limited number of O.B.V's patrol in two areas at the same time cannot always be effectively maintained. It is not intended, however, to abandon altogether the patrols South of Madeira and it may be decided to alternate the patrols in this area with those near 45° N., 25° - 30° W. Admiralty will direct which zone is to be patrolled.

4. Operational control will be in accordance with A.T.1823 of 21/2 and F.O.C.N.P. and F.O.C.N.A. are requested to take the necessary action.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1212/26).

Mining.

Operation G.X.

My 1209/25. Propose that ABDIEL shall lay along a line extending for 10 miles in direction 360° from 48° 00'N., 5° 35'W.

2. If concurred in C.in C. Plymouth is to issue orders for the operation.
(V.C.N.S. 1326/26).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

27.3.1941.
THURSDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation G.Y.

My 1941. Intentions. To lay mines on a line extending 10 miles in direction 000° from 048° 00'N., 005° 35'W.

2. Forces taking part. ABDIEL escort KELLY, KASHMIR, JACKAL, KELVIN.

3. Date. Operation is to be carried out on night of 28th/29th March, 1941.

4. Mines.

5. Execution.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1941/27).

HOME COMMANDS.

28.3.1941.
FRIDAY.

Policy.

Identification Marks of H.M. Ships to A/C.

Deck identification marks for use in the event of an invasion (in accordance with instructions in A.L. M.024063/40 to ships on Home Station only) may also be used for other special operations both at home and abroad. Details.
(V.C.N.S. 1921/28).

Operations.

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Reported from reliable source on 26/3 that GNEISENAU and SCHARNHORST have entered Brest.

(ii) With object of intercepting enemy should they break out and at same time giving some measure of cover to O.G, H.G. and S.L.Convoys F.O.C. 1st B,C.S. in HOOD with NIGERIA and FIJI screened by 3 destroyers is to proceed t operate generally near convoy routes between Lat: Ushant and Lisbon. NIGERIA and FIJI are to R/V as ordered by F.O.C. 1st B.C.S.

/(iii)

MOST SECRET.

28.3.1941.
FRIDAY.

WAR DIARY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Search for SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU. (Contd.)

(iii) In order to deny enemy knowledge of its presence and also to provide security from U/Boat attack the force is not normally to be operated inside area of enemy shore based air reconnaissance.

(iv) With submarine patrol now established it is hoped information of enemy departures may be received from this source.

(v) C.in C. W.A. is to arrange A/S air escort for (?Force .) for veil along outward route as practicable. Code word LABEL.

(vi) Destroyers are to be detached when prudent limit of endurance is reached.

(vii) My 1721/27 and my 1524/26 neither to all addressees are cancelled. (C.in C. H.F. 0035/28).

Biscay Submarine Patrol.

A. The submarine dispositions extend over an arc of about 240 miles radius from Brest between bearings 262° and 220°.

B. Today 9 submarines are in position on this arc. 3 are on passage to their positions 1 is homeward bound and 1 is operating inshore.

C. The following number will be in position on this arc on the dates shown. March 30th Ten, March 31st Eleven, April 4th, Ten, April 5th Nine, April 7th Six, April, 8th Four, April 9th One, April 11th, Nil.

The above numbers entail keeping the submarines at sea for what I consider to be the reasonable maximum time observing their recent employment.

D. I intend to keep the Northern positions occupied as submarines leave for their bases.

E. The above numbers do not include any 'H' class submarines or Netherlands 09 and 010. (F.O.S.1246/28).

/My 1246

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

28.3.1941.
FRIDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

My 1246 By using the 5 available H Class O.9 and O.10 to relieve S/MS now at sea the number that can be maintained on patrol on the 240 mile ARC from Brest would be as follows.
March 30th Ten, March 31st Eleven, April 9th Eight, April 10th Seven, April 11th, Five, April 13th Two, April 14th Nil. The H Class O.9 and C.10 are not reliable and the possibility of one or two of them breaking down completely at sea cannot be disregarded. I would not advocate their employment on patrol in this area except in extreme emergency.
(F.O.S. 1606/28).

Mining.

Operation G.Z.

Intention. To lay mines on a line extending 10 miles in a direction 000° from 048° 16'N., 005° 29'W.

2. FORCES TAKING PART.

Minelayers 20th D.F. Escort KELLY, KASHMIR, JACKAL, KELVIN.

3. DATE. Operation to be carried out on night of 29/30 March, 1941.

4. MINES.

5. EXECUTION.
(C.in C. Plymouth, 1403/28).

MOST SECRET.

28.3.1941.
FRIDAY.

WAR DIARY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Reinforcements, Convoy protection A/S operations.

Admty. 2022/26. Intend these moves to be prelude to following final reinforcements:-

A. 4 Destroyers to be maintained at Freetown so that all heavy ships operating from that port may receive sufficient A/S escort.

B. 5 Groups of 4 corvettes to be based on Freetown with the object of enabling 4 corvettes to be attached to each Convoy and e cort it to the North of Azores. The corvettes then to return to Freetown direct.

C. R.A.F. Flying Boats operating from Freetown and Bathurst to be reinforced as soon as sufficient become available.

2. When above forces provided I hope you will be able to employ a large corvette escort for the initial portion of the voyage of S.L.Convoys which, coupled with air R/C may enable any shadowing submarine to be sunk.

3. To make full use of Bathurst for refuelling, etc. any requirement to facilitate this should be taken in hand as soon as possible.

4. From Admty. records it appears that enemy submarines generally rely on making contact with the Convoy about 20° W. A route along this longitude should, therefore, be avoided and every endeavour made to cross it in an unexpected latitude.

5. So far as practicable, S.L.Convoys will be given cruiser protection and be covered whenever possible by a battleship or battlecruiser and an aircraft carrier.
(1st S.L. 0113/28 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
SATURDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Operation S.N.8.

Operations are delayed a few days as as insufficient units have so far arrive at Base. Propose to carry out S.N.8. sailings 0630/5/4 and laying between 062° 47'N., 010° 31'W. and 063° 27'N., 011° 43'W. P.M./6. AGAMEMNON may be unable to lay full outfit dependent on weather. Propose to accept any resultant dilution in strength of field consequent on the laying full length in any case. Time of return to Port Z.A. 0830/8/4.
(R.A.M.L. 1242/29).

P.W.7.

A.L.M.02354/41 of 13/3/41 para.2 in view of information gained in P.W. (6) intend to lay P.W.(7) on a line 315° from buoy on N.E. end inner Ratel Bank reported in V+4's 0959/29/3/41. This position is preferred as S.W. End Luitenratel Bank is used navigationally by motor torpedo boats.
(C.in C. Nore, 1234/29).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Dispositions of S.A.D. in view of Enemy M.V. Activity.

Possible reasons for recent activity of Axis ships in South American Ports appears to be (a) to get away before decision throughout Americaasto sequestrate idle tonnage. (b) To induce me to disperse my forces and unguard focal areas pending attack on my trade routes. (c) To run blockade perhaps covered by ADMIRAL SCHEER and/or ADMIRAL HIPPER.

As keeping cruisers close in for interception prejudices dispositions for defence of trade consider my object is best achieved by endeavouring to prevent ships sailing, when they may eventually fall into friendly hands. Intend therefore to show cruisers off Argentine and Uraguayan coasts then patrol Plate Peninsula area, r maining concentrated while ADMIRAL SCHEER is unlocat d.

/Failing

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

29.3.1941.
SATURDAY.

OPERATIONS VOLUME.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

. Failing further information intend, after fuelling about 3/4 to move up along outer trade routes to arrive K 33 (d) 8/4 so that cruisers can be available concentrated in case ADMIRAL SCHEER takes a hand with GRAB. ASTURIAS will leave K.33 5/4 to patrol Plate area.
(R.A.S.A.D. 1724Z/29 to C.in C. S.A.)

T

31.3.1941.
MONDAY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Bombing of SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU.

Your 1305/30. The considerations you put forward are of course uppermost in mind not only of Air Ministry and Admiralty but of War Cabinet also.

If you will refer to meterological reports you will note that last night was the first night on which attacks on Brest were practicable and 112 bombers were sent.

The weather over the other targets to which you refer has on the other hand been suitable for bombing on other nights.
(1st Sea Lord 1500/31 to C.in C. Plymouth).

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume.

1.4.1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Dispositions to watch SCHARNHORST & GNEISENAU.

Situation at Brest necessitates our maximum effort being disposed in the best manner to engage the two German battle-cruisers should they leave harbour.
2. HOOD, NIGERIA and FIJI leave Biscay area on 4/4 to refuel in U.K.
3. REPULSE and FURIOUS leave Gibraltar on about 4/4 for Y.K.
4. The submarines on the Biscay patrol will require to be withdrawn on 6/4.
5. Request that you will:-
(a) Sail KING GEORGE V with such cruisers as you think fit in company to the area in which HOOD has recently been operating.
(b) Detail either NIGERIA or FIJI to escort convoy H.G. 57 to U.K. joining the convoy on 3/4.
H.G. 57 left Gibraltar at 1630/24/3 routed as follows.
(V.C.N.S., 1930/1)

3.4.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

S.N. 8.

Intend to carry out S.N.8 as follows.
(a) Surface minefield from S.E. to N.W.
(d) 1. SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, LANCASTER, ST. MARY'S SCOTT.
(d) 2. F.O.C. 2nd C.S. in GALATEA and AURORA as Ocean Escort. SUFFOLK covering operation COSSACK and ANTHONY as Close Screen.
(f) From 062° 38' N., 010° 15° 30' W to 063° 15' 42" N., 11° 28' 30" W.
(g) 0630/5.
(1) 1500/6.
R.A.M.L. 1341/3, 1921/4, 1923/4.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

4.4.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

F.O. i/c Iceland 1835/3. Line S.N. 8 is to be extended to the southward to approx. 62° 38' N., 10° 04' W., keeping inside the 300 fathom line.
(1st S.L. 1647/4)
Note. R.A.M.L. 1921/4, 1923/4 have been incorporated in his 1341/3.

Propose to carry out operation S.N. 9 sailing at 2045 on Easter day and laying between 063° 20' N., 011° 33' W. and 064° 07' N., 012° 10' W., on 15/4. Time of return to port Z.A. 0830/17.
(R.A.M.L. 2211/4)

5.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Ostend. Proposed bombardment.

N.I.D. 0681/41 dated 2/3/41, indicates valuable results achieved by bombardment Request you plan a similar operation against Ostend for first suitable opportunity, informing Admty. of your proposals. Consideration might be fiven to supplementing fire of EREBUS with LOCUST and destroyers.
(A.C.N.S. 0959/5 to C. in C., Nore.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume.

9.4.1941.
Wednesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation B.S. 54.

Initial position 55° 18' 30" N., 00° 37' 00" W. Direction 148° Length 6.8 miles. Minelayer TEVIOT BANK. C. in C. Nore to provide surface escort and to arrange air escort in conjunction with C. in C. Rosyth. F.O.I.C. Tyne to provide two P.M/S to sweep TEVIOT BANK from Northern edge of Gap B to laying position and back to Gap B. TEVIOT BANK issue the necessary orders to the minesweepers. Mines. C. in C. Nore arrange date of operation. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1742/9.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

U.S.S. Forces for U.K.

War Cabinet have directed that necessary details regarding U.S. Forces to be moved to these islands are to be settled by you with U.S. authorities.

Training of F.A.A. at Piarco.

Necessary you should realise importance of uninterrupted training of F.A.A. Observers at Piarco which appears to be the only available aerodrome from which the squadron of U.S. medium bombardment planes can operate.
Seems certain that accommodation of U.S. aircraft at Piarco must interfere with training. Even so, preferable to accept some reduction in training rather than waste time in moving ground organisation required by an Observers' School to some other aerodrome.
(1st S.L. 1811/9 to C. in C., A.W.I.)
My 1811/9. Following U.S. Forces will be sent to St. Johns N.F. in transport leaving New York 18/4 arriving 20/4. Half battery of 8 inch guns to be mounted on St. Johns. One squadron of three medium and three heavy bomber aeroplanes. 57 officers and 575 men. U.S. Govt. will consult with Canadian authorities as to accommodation of forces and mounting of guns. War Cabinet decided that details should be arranged by U.S. Govt. with U.S. Canadian Joint Defence Board, keeping Govt. of Newfoundland informed.
(1st S.L. 1812/9 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

10.4.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Operation
H.A.

Intend to make all preparations to lay mines along a line extending for 6 miles in direction 068° from 48° 29' N., 5° 25' W on night Saturday 12/4 or as soon after as practicable.
2. C. in C. Portsmouth is requested to sail INTREPID and ICARUS for Dartmouth or Plymouth p.m/11 each ship having embarked a reduced outfit of Mark XVII mines with 40 day flooders.
3. C. in C. Plymouth allocate short title and to prepare the orders for the operation.
4. On completion ships to sail for Portsmouth as convenient.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1915/10.)

11.4.1941.
Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Biscay
Patrol.

Your 1355/10. Concur with para 3. but if ships patrol to the Eastward of 20° W., the enemy are likely to discover our disposition, which not only may make it more difficult to bring them to action but may also endanger our ships due to U-Boat attack.
2. Perhaps a satisfactory solution might be for ships to patrol normally to Westward of 20° W., and move in when Admty. inform them that departure of enemy battle cruisers appears imminent.
3. Request your remarks.
(1st S.L. 1108/11 to C. in C., H.F.)

/Your 1108/11..

HOME COMMANDS

Operations.

Biscay Patrol-Contd.

Your 1108/11. Datum line was established at 560 miles from Brest on assumption that the chance of discovery by R/C A/C to westward of it was small enough to be acceptable. My intention was that ships should cruise to Westward during daylight, crossing Datum line about dark and closing Brest till midnight when if no information had been received course was to be altered to westward, recrossing line about dawn. Direction of approach to line being varied each time of crossing. These intentions were to be communicated when other forces had arrived within operating distance.
(C. in C., H.F. 2012/11 to Admty.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Aircraft reinforcements for Malta.

Re Admty. 1606/8. Re my 1551/1. Request for this operation experienced personnel be provided for Skuas, as no further crews can be supplied from ARK ROYAL without detriment to operational efficiency.
4. (as received) Also request greater attention to W/T equipment of Hurricanes. Six of 12 in. "Winch" required modification on arrival and others had been incorrectly installed.
(S.O. Force H. 1743/10.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume.

12.4.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation H.A.

Admty. 1915/10 and my 1007/12. Propose operation H.A. be altered to lay mines along a line extending 5 miles in a direction 360° from 48° 56.5' N. 003° 39'W. (ii) This alteration is suggested in view of information in Admty. 1905/11 so that safe passage may be left to lay mines to westward of Chaussee de Sein, proposal for which will be forwarded. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1829/12 to Admty.)

Future minelaying operations.

C. in C. H.F. 1431/11. An increasing proportion of the outfit to be loaded for the operation following S.N. 9 will have been completely sterilized at the depots, and cannot be reactivated unless they are returned there. To make the best use of material it is proposed that further consideration should be given to using this load to extend S.N. 3. in a north-westerly direction to the 200 fathom line in 60° 26' N., 8° 48' W. The enemy is probably by now aware of the boundaries given in a.m. 1931/20/1/41 and he can at present keep in deep water until outside these boundaries to the North West of S.N. 3 and thence proceed into the Atlantic in safety.

The present proposal, while keeping open the gap between S.N. 3 and S.N. 4 will l leave no deep water passage except by a circuitous route through the gully between the Faeroe Bank and the Faeroes. (R.A.M. 1416/12.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume.

13.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Military Convoys

DIDO
ABDIEL

Decided that DIDO and ABDIEL are to be used to take urgently required personnel and stores abroad.
Request ships to be berthed alongside in Clyde, as soon as possible for loading.
They will be required to sail a.m./19.
Following approx. numbers of personnel and stores will be embarked.
Dummy mines in ABDIEL are to be disembarked.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 1310/13 to F.O.I.C., Glasgow, C. in C., H.F. etc.)

14.4.1941.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Sailing of American Ships for U.K.

Re first group of fast American Ships for U.K. it is important they should R/V with A/S escort 53° 45' N., 32° 00' W., at 1300 G.M.T./28.
Report number of ships ready to sail and proposed ports of departure or assembly port. Desirable that ships should be sailed as a group.
(A.C.N.S. (T) 1740/14 to N.A. Washington)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

15.4.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Present advantageous situation of Enemy Ships in German waters.

Dispositions of Home Fleet capital ships at present time place enemy ships now in German water in a very favourable strategic position. HOOD is the only effective capital ship available to operate against them should they proceed in force to attack our convoys south of Iceland or operate in North Sea.
(B.C.1. 1942/15.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

T.C. 11.

Military Authorities request transport accommodation for total of 11100 personnel ready for embarkation at Halifax on or about 10/5. Would appreciate early indication when ships and escort may be available.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1231/15 to Admty.)

17.4.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

It is intended to maintain at least one capital ship in the Bay of Biscay for the present. Request you will arrange programme accordingly using KING GEORGE V, HOOD and REPULSE. HOOD will sail from Scapa 18/4 to relieve KING GEORGE V. REPULSE is to return to Gibraltar for fuel on expiration of the present patrol.
(1st S.L. 2359/17.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

19.4.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Minelaying off Brest.

My 1829/12 para 2. Following alternative areas are proposed (a) An area enclosed between line extending 7 miles in direction 015° and 075° from 047° 54' N., 005° 31' W. (b) Between lat 047° 24' N., and 047° 36' W and long. 006° 02' N., and 006° (? 46°) 11' W. Of above (a) is preferred.
(ii) Consider 3 destroyers desirable to enable a sufficient density to be obtained.
(iii) Destroyer escort for minelayers is considered necessary in any operation near Brest. (C. in C. Plymouth, 1345/19.)

20.4.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining.

Operation H.B.

Intention: to lay mines between four and 9 miles North of Lestriagoz light.
(ii) Force taking part: INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE.
(iii) Date: night of 20/21 April.
(v) Execution ships are to leave Plymouth so as to take departure from Eddystone at 2145 today.
(vi) Captain (D) 20 has discretion to cancel lay or jettison the mines in a safe condition if circumstances require also place lay further to Northwards if navigational considerations make this desirable.
(vii)On conclusion of lay, ships are to return to Plymouth so as to arrive 180° Rame Head Chapel 2.2 miles at 0615/21.
(C. in C. Plymouth 1515/20)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

22.4.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

French Territorial Waters.

French Govt. have been informed that in existing circumstances French territory cannot be regarded as having the status of an ordinary neutral. All French territorial waters may therefore be entered for the purpose of attacking or intercepting enemy shipping.
2. Ref. para 4 of Admty. 1407/10/1. For the purpose of intercepting French Merchant ships the territorial waters of Madagascar, Reunion, all French territories on the Australian and New Zealand stations and all French African territories may be entered.
3. It is to be borne in mind, however, that French Govt. have given notice that any of H.M. ships which approach within 20 miles of French coasts render themselves liable to attack.
(Hd. of M. Approved by First Lord, 1923/22 to C. in C's, S.A., E.I., A.W.I., China, Med., etc.)

24.4.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

SURCOUF

After arrival on your station Free French Submarine SURCOUF is allocated to you for operations against enemy supply ships and raiders. Intended that she should normally operate from Bermuda but could fuel from Gibraltar or Freetown as desired. Some measure of Admiralty control in choice of areas of operation will be necessary. Expected SURCOUF will be ready to leave U.K. on 10th/5 F.O. (S) requested to sail her to Bermuda. (A.C.N.S., (F) 1243/24 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations Volume

26.4.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

CONQUEROR

Your 962/01/50 of 23/4. In order that ships company of CONQUEROR may be maintained at concert pitch for repelling air attack consider ship should be in harbour at night and that she should proceed to sea four or five days a week for a maximum period of about eight hours on any one day In order to avoid arousing suspicions of enemy that there is anything unusual about the ship she should follow approximately normal convoy routes. Suggest CONQUEROR cruises to the eastward to begin with and that she should be sailed from Portland to Needles and thence to Portsmouth by daylight/28. Request you will amend sailing orders accordingly. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1947/26.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

5.5.41.
Monday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

M/S Trawlers — Your 1252/2 Zanzibar was named as it is the better fleet anchorage in the area. Dispositions to meet current requirements will be at your discretion. Trawlers to meet both requirements are not yet in sight. (D.M.S. 1949B/5 to C. in C. E.I.)

6.5.41.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Evacuations. — Your 0220/4/8/40, request information whether policy regarding Gibraltar still holds good. As stated in my predecessor's 1718/21/7 a large proportion of base staff will be unable to function. Such protected occommodation as is available is suitable for temporary accupation only. Early guidance on following points would greatly facilitate preparations of plans.
(A) What Naval Personnel is to remain?
(B) Have I full discretion as to evacuating remainder?
(C) Can it be assumed MAIDSTONE will be available to evacuate Naval Personnel?
(D) Will Admty. divert shipping for evacuation of civil population about 4000 in number?
(F.O.C.N.A., 1932/6 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

8.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

B.P. 4. S.S.T.O. Bombay 0930/3.
B.P. 4 consisting of 3 personnel ships for Basra will leave Bombay 23/5. ANTENOR is to escort to 060° E. and then return to Bombay.

B.P. 5. V.P. 5 consisting of 1 personnel ship from Bombay and 6 personnel ships from Karachi, all for Basra, will leave Bombay 31/5 Karachi 2/6 respectively. ANTENOR is to escort Bombay portion to R.V. in vicinity of Karachi where Karachi portion will join Convoy as arranged by Cndre. R.I.N., thence to 060° E and then return to Bombay.
(C. in C. E.I., 1130Z/8 to Cdre. R.I.N.)

9.5.41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Defence of U.K.

Immobilisation of Northern East Coast Ports. Without the use of blockships which have been removed from the Mouth of the Tyne, and are ordered to be removed from Sunderland, Hartlepool and Middlesbrough, it is impossible to make any adequate preparations for denying to a successful enemy the many miles of excellent quayage facilities which these ports present. Considerable expense has been incurred in preparing these blockships.
Alternative of selecting and retaining ships on the immobilisation order being given is not considered satisfactory.
Reasons. Submit above mentioned three blockships be retained and if not practicable to provide one big enough for Tyne, that preparations be made to lay a contact or magnetic minefield in the harbour entrance with a limited period of activity which should be laid in completion of movements in harbour entrance following an order to immobilise.
(Admiral Peters 2019/9 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

13.5.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Interception of French Ships.

Reference interception of French ship by TRUANT a continuance of these activities will most certainly weld close co-operation between French and enemy to locate and report position of Force H in Western Mediterranean.
Success of operations in this area depends to a large extent on evasion. With short nights and period of high visibility this is becoming increasingly difficult.
Unless the importance of these very occasional interceptions overrides all other considerations I consider that they should be abandoned.
(S.O. Force H., 1034/13 to Admty.)

China

LAMOTTE-PICQUET, repair.

My 0831Z/8 para 4. I recommend we should not provide repair materials for LAMOTTE PICQUET though desirable to appear to view the request sympathetically. In event of Japanese aggression in Indo-China, Japanese would probably make a big effort to seize the ship, if in an efficient condition. List of materials is heavy, including 116 tons of steel. (etc.)
At future date it might be desirable to offer materials in return for some concession by French, but for the present we had better keep this up our sleeves.
(C. in C. China, 0957Z/13)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

14.5.41.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Evacuation policy.

Your 1932/6. Policy contained in my 0220/4/8/40 holds good in that Gibraltar is to be held for the use of the fleet as long as possible and subsequently as a fortress.
Personnel for berthing and fuelling to be retained as long as harbour can be used.
Subsequently only those engaged in:-
(i) Active defence of the fortress.
(ii) Blocking and sabotage of harbour facilities if not already completed.
(iii) Communications are to be retained.
(B) Yes (C) Yes
(D) Shipping for evacuation of 1800 is being diverted as in my 1337/7. As remaining 2200 are dockyard employees it is not desired to evacuate these until circumstances render is essential when such shipping as is required will, if available, be diverted.
(Hd. of M. Appd. by A.C.N.S. (F). 1300B/14 to F.O.C.N.A.)

15.5.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

A/S Protection of shipping in Freetown Area.

Your 1236/10. Reinforcements appreciated. Problems at Freetown are, (A) definite convoy commitments about every nine or ten days to northwards and (B) the area in which independent shipping is liable to attack extending over whole Approaches to Freetown. These are two separate problems and for that reason thought situation differs to some extent from N.W. Approaches.

/Following....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

15.5.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic.

A/S Protection of shipping in Freetown Area. -Contd.

Following attacks on convoy S.L. 67 and 68 air escort has been provided for convoys confirmed by Admiralty 0009/7, in which maximum air escort was requested. With limited A/S surface escort and very slow convoys, considered important that submarines should not locate convoy in early stage of voyage and if do locate should be kept down while avoiding action taken and cannot afford to wait until convoy is known to have been located. On other hand if all A/S vessels are concentrated on convoy remainder of area is left free while concentrated attack may develop in that area.
A/S forces for each convoy are away from Freetown for 15 days, Admiralty's 0113/28/3 and my 2135N/22/4 refer. Consider convoy air escort required or R/C in area through which will pass on each occasion of leaving and some compromise desirable in employment of A/S vessels when increase of forces allows. Agree principle of air patrols to keep U-Boats out and dispersion. (C. in C. S.A. 1917N/15 to Admty.)

East Indies

Shatt el Arab Mine watching organisation.

Situation in Basra Province is such that undefended channel from Margiso to open sea is perfect target for minelaying aircraft. We are in effect in control of Margiso to Ashar (?only) and dockyard at Fao. Basra City and the remainder of the channel on the Iraq side of the river id occupied by people rendered hostile by the propaganda or afraid to assist owing to intimidation and the uncertainty of the British intention to remain here.
2. Minewatching organisation must therefore be carried on from boats.
Following personnel increase is required.
6. It is understood total number employed on Suez Canal Organisation is approximately 5000. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 1108Z/15)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

16.5.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS

Operations

Western Patrol.

The recent successful interception of 3 enemy tankers by O.B.V's in lat 44° -45° N indicate the necessity of maintaining patrol in this area.
2. From 17/5 it is noted that the Western Patrol will be entirely vacant for a period at present unknown.
3. With the very limited number of ships at your disposal it is appreciated that such a hiatus is occasionally unavoidable.
4. It is however desired to re-establish patrol in the Northern zone as soon as possible.
5. Request you will signal your proposals.
(A.C.N.S. F. 1246B/16 to F.O.C.N.P.)

18.5.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

A. Situation at present is:-
(1) That all German main units and 8" cruisers except battlecruisers are located in German waters.
(2) Battlecruisers are believed to be damaged and temporarily out of action.
(3) There are a number of merchant ship raiders operating against our trade in distant waters.
(4) American Forces are patrolling the North Atlantic west of 30 W. and it is desirable to station a cruiser in the vicinity of their patrols.
(f) The following convoys need cruiser escorts:-

W.S. 8 B, 22nd May
W.S. 8 X, 27th May
W.S. 9 A, 31st May
W.S. 9 B, 20th June
W.S. 10, 20th July.

B. To meet the above commitments it is necessary to withdraw some of the cruisers now under your command.

/C.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

18.5.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Policy-Contd.

C. The following dispositions are desired:-
LONDON to leave U.K. 3/6 and then operate in American Area 1.
EXETER to escort W.S. 8 B to Aden and then join East Indies.
NEPTUNE to escort W.S. 8 X either to Gibraltar or Aden.

D. To meet the remaining requirements your views are requested as to which ships, either 8" or large 6", you would wish to detail:-
American Area No.3 - Flagship required.
W.S. 9 A - Escort to Cape and then operate in South Atlantic.
W.S. 9 B - Escort to Cape and then to South America Division to relieve NEWCASTLE who returns U.K. for boiler repairs.
W.S. 10 - Escort to Cape.

E. C. in C. A & W.I. is using a 6" cruiser and a mobile oiler to operate in American Area No.2.

F. Following cruisers expected to become available ex Dockyard DEVONSHIRE 19/5, BERWICK 15/6 DORSETSHIRE 1/7, KENT end of August, PENELOPE early July.
(1st S.L. 0059B/18 to C. in C. H.F.)

Mining.

1. There is further evidence that U-Boats are using the passage between Faeroes and Shetlands.

2. It is proposed therefore that R.A. (M) lays a line to double the southern end of S.N. four which is the most likely field to be crossed, as soon as possible.

3. Understand that two minelayers would be ready to sail on 21/5, but that only two of 17th Division will be available.

4. If no escorts can be supplied from H.F. resources, it is suggested that one minelayer only might be sent to double the portion of the minefield outside the 200 fathom line.

5. Request your early remarks.
(D.O.D. H. 1806B/18 to C. in C. H.F., R.A.M)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

19.5.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Faeroes
N. Rona
Minefield.

A.M. 1806/18. Para one. Recommend that Faeroes North Rona minefield should be reinforced by deep mines.
(C. in C. H.F. 1250B/19)

20.5.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operations
S.N. 64 A
S.N. 64 B

Propose to carry out operation S.N. 64 as follows:- All times are Midsummer times.
To lay surface minefield S.N. 64 A from S.E. to N.W. and surface minefield S.N. 64 B from S.E. to N.W. (D1) AGAMEMNON, PORT QUEBEC, BRIGHTON, ST. MARY'S, SCOTT, (D2) 1 cruiser 1 destroyer.
S.N. 64 A from 300 fathoms line in 060° 22' 30" N., 006° 17' 30" W. in 329° directions for about 18 miles my 1237/20.
S.N. 64 B from 300 fathoms line in approx. 060° 24' 30" N., 005° 51' 30" W., in 329° direction for about 8½ miles.
S.N. 64 A at 0800/23. S.N. 64 B at about 1300/23. Return Port Z.A. 0630/24.
(R.A.M.L. 1237B/20)

Faeroes
N. Rona
Minefield.

Your 1250/19.
1. It is desired in this instance to lay a shallow minefield.
2. Suggest that R.A. (M) and D.O.D. (M) should visit at a convenient date to discuss reinforcement by deep mines and other future operations of first Minelaying Squadron. (A.C.N.S. H. 2152/B/20 to C. in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary.
Operations.

21.5.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Proposed Operations.

Propose carry out following operations after S.N. 64 in order
(i) S.N. 67 B with 2 ships between 063° 20' N., 009° 24' W. and 063° 00' N., 008° 44' W., or slightly further to south eastwards if depth of water does not permit laying so far to north west.
(ii) S.N. 67A with 3 ships between 062° 57' N., 008° 40' ? W., and 062° 28' N., 007° 50' W.
(iii) S.N. 70 between 064° 32' 30" N., 012° 56' W., and 064° 37' N., 012° 48' W and 065° 08' N., 012° 47' W.
(iv) S.N. 66 between 062° 21' N., 006° 53' W., and 062° 48' N., 007° 38' W.
S.N. 66 and/or S.N. 67 A could be laid shorter and thicker if it is desired to give less Overlap between them. Request your early remarks. (R.A.M.L. 1014B/21)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

A/S Convoy Escorts.

Your 0016B/20. 7 Corvettes available now 15 more within one month. Total of 48 within 6 months. 7 are being sailed for St. John N.F. 23/5 being augmented by a group of 5 in a fortnight, the force being further strengthened as ships become available. We should be glad to undertake task of A/S convoy escort in Newfoundland focal area which would involve new utilization of all R.C.N. destroyers. With such a force we should feel confident of being able to carry out A/S convoy escort from Newfoundland to R.V. with Iceland escort basing this force on St. Johns N.F. Approximate operating strength by mid June would be 8 destroyers and 20 corvettes. Command of this force would be given to an R.C.N. Officer with experience of operations in Western Approaches, probably Cdr. Mainguy with rank of captain. Suitable staff would be provided. It is hoped that Admiralty will assume direction of this force when necessary to co-ordinate its operations with those of Iceland escort.
(N.S.H.Q., Ottawa 2108Z/21 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

28.5.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar D/F and Evacuation

My 1932/6/5 and your 1300/14. Middle Hill D/F Station is very exposed and would probably be knocked out very early in case of seige.
Propose to make Gib 'Y' unit and necessary D/F apparatus into a mobile unit so as to be ready for evacuation. Destination as directed by Admiralty.
Request approval and guidance as to whether party should be included in initial evacuation observing this will entail Middle Hill D/F ceasing to function.
Naval W/T ratings of D/F Station would only be required to accompany party if W.R.N.S. have not arrived. (F.O.C.N.A. 2128A/28 to Admty.)

29.5.1941
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

U.S. 11.

Necessary to provide for possibility of large ships of U.S. 11 not being able to proceed to Suez.
U.S. 11 comprising 16000 troops is at present scheduled to arrive Trincomalee about 5/7. Request report as to whether shipping could be made available for onward conveyance to M.E.
(D.of S.T. 1354B/29 to P.S.T.O's, Egypt and India)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

30.5.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Abadan, Evacuation plans.

Pass following by safe hands to Inspector Admiralty fuel Abadan. Your 1055/23 to C. in C. E.I. only.
In the event of widespread disturbances resulting in enforced cessation of your duties you should offer services of yourself and your staff to assist the A.I.O.C. in defence of Abadan.
In event of general evacuation of Abadan being ordered and services of yourself and your staff being no longer required in defence of the place, you should leave with remainder.
You are to make arrangements now to ensure that secret and confidential documents can be destroyed at immediate notice.
Such documents must be destroyed when you leave; earlier if it is necessary.
(C. in C. E.I., 2058Z/30 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf.)

31.5.41.
Saturday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Search for Supply Ship and for PRINZ EUGEN.

Your 0001Z/30. SUFFOLK is not to return to the area referred to in my 1947B/29. R.A.C. 2nd C.S. will carry out this operation.
Suspected that PRINZ EUGEN may be about to commence attacks on shipping to S.E. of Newfoundland Banks. If PRINZ EUGEN is located anticipate she will move to S.E. at high speed. Our forces in the area are:-
TRUANT on patrol between 44° N., 41° W. 41° N., 44° W.

/REPULSE....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

31.5.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Search for Supply Ship and for PRINZ EUGEN. -Contd.

REPULSE escorting H.X. 129, estimated to be in 42° 32' N., 51° 48' W., at 1300Z/31 routed through 43° N., 39' W.

REVENGE at present escorting H.X. 128 will be returning to Halifax and may be met about 2/6.

Your object is to locate and attack PRINZ EUGEN.

When fuelled, SUFFOLK is to proceed to operate in an area bounded by 38° N., 46° N., 40° 50° W.
(V.C.N.S., 1328B/31 to SUFFOLK)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

2.6.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Watch on Northern Straits.

So far as I know the following ships, VON TIRPITZ, 2 Pocket Battleships, one 8-inch Cruiser, and 4 6-inch Cruisers, are capable of attempting breaking out at any time. With the present forces available I cannot keep an adequate watch and guard over Northern Straits. Pending return of some of my forces, the following air patrols Stand, Hornli (both if possible 3 times daily) and Denmark Straits, are essential, also maximum photographic R/C of Kiel.
I consider a T/B Striking Force based Iceland is an urgent need. (C. in C. H.F. 0043/2B to Admty

REPULSE to land her Torpedoes.

Request early information of result of board of enquiry into loss of HOOD. In meantime I intend order REPULSE to land her torpedoes on her return to a U.K. port. At present I do not intend same action for Cruisers as tubes are in open. (C. in C. H.F. 1203B/2 to Admty.)

3.6.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Watch on Northern Straits.

Your 0043B/2. Your difficulties in keeping adequate watch are fully appreciated.
1. Denmark Straits. These Straits will be kept patrolled to the maximum possible extent that aircraft available and weather permit.
2. Norwegian Coast Patrols. "Stand" will be flown at dawn and dusk.
In lieu of "Hornli" it is proposed to fly "Sleeve" at dusk whenever practicable and a modified "Sleeve from 58° N., 60° 30' E. to 57°N 5° E. whenever unsuitable weather conditions make it impossible to fly "Sleeve" proper

/3....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

3.6.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Watch on Northern Straits-Contd.

3. Norwegian Ports Reconnaissance. Norwegian coast and ports from Stavanger to Trondjhem will be covered whenever possible by P.R.U. aircraft at dawn and dusk. This however, depends on the availability of P.R.U. aircraft, which are of limited numbers. When P.R.U. aircraft are not forthcoming, G.R. aircraft will be flown in their place.
4. German Ports Reconnaissance. Kiel will be photographed as often as possible, as also will be other German ports.
5. Torpedo Bomber Squadrons. It is at present impracticable to base torpedo bombers on Iceland, owing to:-
(a) Unsuitable aerodromes. Hope however remedy for this will be complete by the end of June.
(b) Lack of facilities for torpedo maintenance until Naval assistance in Iceland can be given. This must await the arrival of a Depot Ship.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1237B/3 to C. in C. H.F.)

Technical

R/D.F.

A.L. S.D.O. 2140/41 of 12/5/41. It is very important to increase the gun ranging capabilities of R/D.F. in capital ships and the tactical warning in cruisers. If Type 271 is likely to meet these requirements I must request that all capital ships and cruisers, in that order, should have priority over light craft, and that very early action may be taken to fit, this being done at Scapa if possible.
2. The potentialities of R/D.F. were amply demonstrated in the recent operation, as were also the limitations of our present sets and the disadvantage which would arise if the enemy should outrange with his R/D.F.
3. Letter follows. (C. in C. H.F. 1612B/3 to Admty.)

/FOREIGN STATIONS...

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

3.6.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

A/S Vessels Freetown. — S/M activity in Freetown area necessitates immediate reinforcement of A/S vessels.
2. No more corvettes can at present be spared from Western Approaches as convoys now have to be escorted whole way across Atlantic.
3. Mediterranean also requires M/S reinforcements as soon as possible.
4.5. Re allocation of M/S Trawlers.
(1st S.L., 2359B/3 to C. in C. Med., C. in C. S.A., F.O.C.N.A.)

5.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. — Admty. 1604B/18/5. Ammunition is due at Capetown on 4/7 in SS CLAN MACBRAYNE. Adml. Muselier is anxious she should proceed as early as practicable to embark this ammunition and then go to Tahiti where it is considered that her presence is desirable for security reasons. C. in C. Med. is requested to arrange to obtain the views of General de Gaulle on this proposal, and C. in C. E.I. to sail the ship as necessary should de Gaulle concur. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0041B/5 to C. in C. E.I., C. inC. Med.)

6.6.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Advance Against Bagdad. — My 0434/31. It has been decided to continue with this operation. S.N.O.P.G. 1216/4 being passed to you refers. (C. in C. E.I. 0722Z/6 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

7.6.1941.
Saturday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation S.N. 64.

Propose to carry out operation S.N. 64 as follows (a) surface minefield S.N. 64 A and S.N. 64 B from S.E. to N.W. (c) (1) AGAMEMNON MENESTHEUS, SCOTT, BRIGHTON, ST. MARYS (11) C.S. 10 in NIGERIA. Two destroyers (f) S.N.64 A from 300 fathoms line approx. 060° 22' 18" N., 006° 17' 18" W. in 329° direction for 15 miles. S.N. 64 D from 300 fathoms line in approx. 060° 24' 30" N., 005° 51' 30" W. in 329° direction for 8½ miles (L) S.N. 64 A 0815/10 S.N. 64 B 1230/10. (r) Leave Loch Ewe a.m./9 (R.A.M. 0846B/7)

SCOTT

My 0846/7. Proceed as necessary a.m./9 to lay beacon A. and B. You should complete this work and return to port Z.A. as soon as possible Fuel if necessary at Skaale Fiord. (R.A.M.L. 0847B/7 to SCOTT)

12.6.1941.
Thursday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation S.N. 66.

Intend to carry out operation S.N. 66 as follows.
(a) Surface minefield from S.E. to N.W.
(j) Through position (1) 270° Cape Wrath 12
(2) 060° 35' N., 005° 25' W. and Lervig Fiord.
(1) 0700 16/6.
AGAMEMNON, MENESTHEUS, BRIGHTON, CASTLETON ST. MARY'S, WELLS.
(R.A.M. 1143B/12,1212B/14)

/Submarines....

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

12.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

General

Submarines

The following redispositions of submarines are to be effected as soon as practicable:-
(A) TALISMAN and THUNDERBOLT to be based at Halifax or St. Johns.
(B) OLYMPUS and three Dutch submarines to be based at Gibraltar for convoy escort duties and occasional patrols.
(C) CLYDE and SEVERN to be based at Gibraltar for operations in the Western Mediterranean and if necessity arises in the Atlantic. They may also be required to carry essential stores to Malta.
(D) THRASHER, OSIRIS and PROTEUS to join 1st Submarine Flotilla at Alexandria, or as ordered by C. in C. Med.
(E) OTUS on completion of refit to proceed to Eastern Mediterranean from Gibraltar.
(F) P.32 and P.33 to join 1st Submarine Flotilla at Malta. (V.C.N.S. 2120B/12 to C. in C. Med. F.O.C.N.A., R.A.3.)

13.6.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Possible sale of Brazilian destroyers.

An informed that Brazilian Government might be prepared to sell to us the following destroyers.
(B.A.S.R. Washington, 1945/13 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

15.6.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

DIDO

Admty. 2011/10. Following is intended programme for DIDO: Aden Leave June 14; Mombasa June 20-22; Durban June 26-July 10; Simonstown July 13; Pernambuco July 23; Trinidad July 29; Brooklyn Aug 3.
All dates after arrival Durban subject to time taken making ship seaworthy. My 1058/11 refers. Request necessary arrangements be made for proposed call at Pernambuco and for supplying 1000 tons fuel there.
(C. in C. E.I. 1248Z/15 to Admty.)

19.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Madagascar

Admty. 1607/25/3.
(i) Is there yet any intention of Free French rising in Reunion?
(ii) In present unstable relationship between H.M. G. and Vichy Govt. it is desired to emphasize strategic importance of Madagascar. If Vichy turns actively hostile aircraft and submarines in Madagascar would be a most grave threat to our shipping on Mozambique channel route. No suitable force for protecting convoys or other shipping readily available. Madagascar would provide Germany with some most useful bases for her surface and submarine raiders, and diversion of shipping which would be forced upon us would make their task easier. If Japan enters war, use of Madagascar would effectively extend her naval operations in Indian ocean, if supplies could be got there. Blockade of the island would be a difficult matter and expensive in ships. Desirability of obtaining control of island before it becomes too strongly or well stocked.
If this end cannot be attained by political means I suggest all available Free French Forces be directed towards it when Syria and Djibuti have been liquidated or sooner if possible.
(C. in C. E.I., 0728Z/19 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations.

22.6.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

China

Action to be taken in event of war with Vichy France.

In the event of war or of general hostilities with Vichy France your aim should be to prevent hostilities spreading to the China Station and so far as possible to maintain the status quo.

2. But necessary action must be taken to safeguard British and Allied shipping and also in the event of Indo-China becoming hostile to seize as many French ships as possible. Accordingly in the event of war or general hostilities with Vichy you should keep all British and Allied shipping away from Indo-China ports and take any further measures necessary for its safety until it is certain that Decoux does not intend to interfere with such shipping.

You have discretion to take any or all of the following measures when they appear justified as a result of your information regarding the attitude of Decoux:

(a) So far as possible prevent ships of any nationality except Japanese from proceeding to Indo-China.

(b) Detain French ships in British ports by administrative delays as well as all other ships bound for Indo-China with the exception of Japanese.

(c) Place armed guards on all French ships in British ports and intercept French ships on the high seas.

Presumably you will consult with N.E.I. Naval C. in C. as necessary.

3. You will be kept informed of any military or political developements calculated to affect the attitude of Decoux.

4. You should now ensure as far as possible that there is not at any given time a greater number of British and Allied ships in or near Indo-China ports than French ships in or near British ports.

5. Please inform Governor, Straits Settlements and repeat by Air Mail to Govt. of India.

(Admty. 2034B/22 to C. in C. China)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

23.6.1941.
Monday

Shipping -Action in event of War with Vichy France.

In the event of war with Vichy France:-
(1) All British and Allied shipping in the vicinity of Vichy French ports should be re-routed as necessary when the emergency arises.
(2) All ex-French ships requisitioned or seized in Prize by H.M.G. if manned by Free French crews, and all Free French ships:-
(a) If in British ports should be detained until you are satisfied of the continued loyalty of the crews.
(b) If at sea and sailing independently will be recalled to British ports by wireless and should be ordered in if met. The names and details of voyages of these vessels will be promulgated as necessary.
(c) If in convoy should proceed with the convoy.
(d) If found making for a Vichy French port should be sent into British port under armed guard.
In cases (a) and (b) you should explain that these measures are taken for their own safety until the naval situation created by the outbreak of hostilities has been clarified.
(3) You may, however, use your discretion to permit such vessels, if bound for ports in Free French Colonies to proceed there unless a British port is nearer and provided you are satisfied with the position of the Colonies concerned. Similar discretion may be used as regards other British, British controlled and Allied ships bound to Free French Colonies.
(4) Names of ships permitted to proceed should be reported at once.
(Admty. 1301B/23 to all C's in C., H. & F. etc.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

SURCOUF

Your 1301B/23. Doubtful of her loyalty in event of war with Vichy.
-SURCOUF will therefore not be sailed in accordance with my 1910Q/22 without express from Admiralty. She might well be sent United States to refit now. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1841Q/23)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

23.6.1941.
Monday

HOME COMMANDS

Co-operation with Russia

Russian request for Information.

Admiral Isakov, Chief of Naval Staff sent for me today and said that pending arrival here of any British Mission he would like an answer as soon as possible to following:-
1. What line of geographical division could be arranged between Soviet and British naval forces operating in northern theatre off Norway and Murmansk coasts in order to prevent overlapping.
2. What naval action can British take in this northern theatre.
3. What action can we take to prevent entry of enemy naval forces into Black Sea from Mediterranean.
The Admiral stated he was willing and anxious for complete naval co-operation and for exchange of every kind of information.
According to Soviet information one Pocket Battleship is at Copenhagan.
(N.A. Moscow, 1800/23.)

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

VAN KINSBERGEN

Your 10010/14 May. Shortage of Cruisers on your station is fully appreciated, but Dutch wish VAN KINSBERGEN to return to U.K; Please arrange.
3. Owing to the general shortage of Cruisers it will not at present be possible to replace VAN KINSBERGEN by another Cruiser.
(D.O.D. (F)(164) 1546B/23 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

24.6.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Co-operation with Russia

Russian request for Information.

Your 1800/23.
A. Experience shows that best way of preventing German units reinforcing Far North is by interception well to the southward within reach of our naval and air bases in U.K. It is our intention to do all in power in this direction. LUTZOW was recently intercepted and torpedoed by such action. A line of demarcation of 15° E. is therefore proposed.
B. If Turks carry out obligations under Art.19 of Montreux Convention no enemy forces should be permitted to enter Straits. Submarine patrols are maintained in channels in Aegean and off Dardenelles and our action is limited to this.
C. Full appreciation will be brought by Admiral Miles of Naval Mission.
D. Fully concur in proposals for co-operation and exchange of information which will be implemented by British Naval Mission.
(1st S.L. 2145B/24 to N.A. Moscow)

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

French India.

1301/23. Grateful for assurance that Govt. India (a) is satisfied that French India is likely to remain loyal to allied cause. (b) will immediately inform me of any indication that loyalty is weakening. (C. in C. E.I. 0648Z/24 to F.O.C.R.I.N

25.6.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

Offer of Brazilian Destroyers.

Your 1945/13. We should be glad to have as many ACRE class as possible and we should also be interested in COMOCIN class minelayer/minesweepers. (Controller, 1112B/25 to B.A.S.R. Washington)

MOST SECRET

War Diary
Operations

26.6.1941.
Thursday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

SURCOUF — Your 1841Q/23. Active service at sea is the best remedy.
Unless you have very good reasons to the contrary consider that it would be undesirable either to detach SURCOUF in harbour or to send her to U.S. to refit now.
(V.C.N.S. 0008B/26 to C. in C. A.W.I.)

27.6.1941.
Friday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Gibraltar Evacuation. — Ref. M.O. 4.71039 of 8/6.
War Cabinet agree that once a decision to close the Dockyard has been taken by them or Defence Committee you are empowered if the emergency arises:
(a) To decide on questions relating to evacuation of non-essential personnel from Gibraltar, and such civilians from Portugal, Spain and Tangier as may reach Gibraltar.
(b) To deal direct on the matter with H.M's diplomatic and Consular Representatives in Lisbon, Madrid and Tangier.
(W.O. 2100/27 to Govr. Gib.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.2.1941
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command carried out no operations last night on account of bad weather.

Enemy Air Activity

No attacks on shipping are reported today.

Mining

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and off Liverpool.

North Atlantic

A surface raider was reported at 0320 today in 33.55 N., 30.05 W. (300 miles south of the Azores) shelling an unknown ship.

Ocean boarding vessel MARSDALE today intercepted SS CASTILLO ALMANSA (Spanish 1407 tons with a cargo of empty oil drums, some 200 miles N.E. of Canary Is. and is sending her in to Gibraltar under armed guard.

South Atlantic

Raider

There is still doubt of the identity of the 2 enemy ships which sank EURYLOCHUS on 29/1, but some evidence indicates they may have been the pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER and and armed merchant raider.

DORSETSHIRE left Freetown today to cover S.L. and S.L.S. convoys and to be within supporting distance of NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE

/MENDOZA.....

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic-Contd.

MENDOZA	DRAGON arrived at Freetown escorting the French MENDOZA (intercepted 13/1 and boarded 18/1)
	Tentative programme for flying boat and other additional air units in West Africa is contained in Admty. 1605/1.
Shipping route past Cape Verde Islands.	Shipping is being routed to eastward of Cape Verde Islands until further orders.

Mediterranean

Operation M.C. 7.	A battle squadron and EAGLE and a force of cruisers and destroyers under V.A.L.F. left Alexandria today to create a diversion in the Eastern Mediterranean to assist operation "Result" and to cover convoy movements in the Aegean.
Mining of Suez Canal	Wellington aircraft today exploded 3 mines in the Suez Canal between Lake Timsah and Great Bitter Lakes. Traffic has been resumed in this section.
and Sollum	It is believed that magnetic mines were laid at Sollum early today.
Second attack on DORSETSHIRE	Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE was bombed again today off the coast of Egypt and was damaged.
Air Attacks on Malta	Two German aircraft raided Malta last night and dropped bombs without causing any damage or casualties.
Valona Bombed	Five Blenheims bombed targets at Valona today.

/Air.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

1.1.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

Air Situation

H.Q., R.A.F., M.E., today sent the Air Ministry an appreciation of the German air position in the Mediterranean.

German transport aircraft continue to operate between Sicily, Libya and probably Sardinia.

East Indies

FLAMINGO and PARRAMATTA left Aden last night and early this morning respectively to meet Convoy B.N.F. 1. (troops and stores for Middle East)

The British TROILUS made a "Q" distress signal about midday today from a position near the Seychelle Islands. Force K (FORMIDABLE and HAWKINS) have been ordered to this position from the vicinity of Mombasa and CAPETOWN from further north. (The message was cancelled later. The German-built Dutch SS ALPHARD was the cause of TROILUS's suspicions.)

Three Blenheims bombed Assab today.

130

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

ARGUS. Deck Landing Trials. — Your 1544/31. Request confirmation that D.L.T. is to be carried on without an attendant vessel. (ARGUS 0946/1 to Admty).

Troop Convoy A/S Escorts. — Cancel Admty's 1355/31. (D A/S W 1325/1).

Operation RUBBLE. — Keen desire here to repeat. Request early advice as to whether repetition possible. Following points should be borne in mind. (N.A. Stockholm 1555/1 to D.N.I.) See Operations Volume.

Defence of United Kingdom.

Clyde. Restriction of Lighting. — Reference report of meeting held 20/1 by District Commissioners to discuss Glasgow and Clyde-side lighting.

Request that immediate measures may be taken.

(a) To extinguish or effectively screen, on receipt of purple warning, all lights on shore which are the direct responsibility of the Admiralty.

(b) (i) To reduce drastically the power of riding lights in the anchorage, enforcing penalties for infringement.

(ii) To improvise method, by sound or light signal on shore, for extinguishing all riding lights on receipt of the purple warning. (A.C.N.S.T. 1659/1).

Movements.

As Milford Haven is closed proceed direct to Cardiff. (N.C.I.C. Cardiff 0055/1 to ASSINIBOINE).

KELLY KIPLING. — Sailed from Plymouth 1912/31. (C.in C. W.A. 0307/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 1.2.1941. Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

KEPPEL. Sailed from Scapa 0310. (A.C.O.S. 0315/1).

ESKIMO. Sailed Scapa 0820.
ECLIPSE. (A.C.O.S. 0847/1).

PEGASUS. Arrived. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1151/1).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight. (A.C.O.S. 1504/1).

JACKAL. Entered, fuelled, and sailed. (Capt: D. Londonderry 1530/1).

Operations.

Operation N.C. Will be carried out, zero hour 0045. (V.A.Dover 1355/1).

Submarines.

TIGRIS. Intend to sail TIGRIS escorted by LA MOQUEUSE at 0845/3 for vicinity Wolf Rock. E.T.A. 0200/5. Thence TIGRIS to patrol LA MOQUEUSE to Plymouth. (S.2. 1134/1).

Positions. At 0800/2 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1634/1).

British Air Activity.

801 Squadron. Six aircraft of 801 Squadron proceeding now to St. Eval to arm and stand by. (St. Merryn 1112/1 to R.A.N.A.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols.

Patrol UNST will not be flown today as no aircraft available. Patrol FAIR delayed until about 1500.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1124/1 to C.in C. H.F.

My 1124 Patrol FAIR cancelled for today.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1352/1 to C.in C. H.F.)

961. Air searches tomorrow. A/S patrol between Butt of Lewis and 56° 40'N., 6° 10'W. throughout daylight. Escort for convoy O.B.A. from 0930.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1934/1).

253 Squadron.

A.200 1/2. Admiralty 1232/19.
Arrangements are being made to transfer 253 Squadron to Kirkwall Sector as soon as possible. Date of move will be notified in a further signal. Regretted that it was not possible to receive (?253) Squadron on 31/1 owing to accommodation difficulties.
(H.Q.F.C. 2110/1 to Air Ministry).

Enemy Air Activity.

STAD ARNHEM.

Arrived S.C.19 Convoy.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast 0009/1).

Amber Fireball seen.

Bearing E.S.E. at least 10 miles at 0616/2.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 0620/2.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

PANDION (Bombed 28/1.)

PANDION broken in two. Gale during the night. Unable do (anything further?) Returning Cambeltown.
(SALVONIA 0800/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BELGIA (Bombed 27/1).

Harwich E.B. 1st Departure. Rescue Tugs ST. MELLONS and KENIA and PM/S QUEEN EMPRESS at 1111. Salvage duties on S.S. BELGIA.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1118/1).

Failed to move BELGIA. ST. MELLONS caught grounded near BELGIA. Expect to get off Next high water. KENIA returning to harbour.
(ST. MELLONS 1707/1).

S.S. PANDION (Bombed 28/1).

Anchored Close to S.S. PANDION in Loch Swilly and sent party aboard to prepare cable for slipping. On approaching vessel rifle shots were fired at the boat. On boarding the vessel it was found impossible to get on to the fore deck owing to the sniping from the shore. After about thirty minutes it was decided that it was hopeless to try to work on board in exposed position and the party left for SALVONIA.

On the way back two heavy fusilades of about some twenty shots each were fired at the boat from the shore at an approx. distance of 1200 yards. There were no casualties. Time from 1715 to 1815.
(SALVONIA 1930/1 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

BARON RENFREW.

TENACITY reports BARON RENFREW in 56° 20'N., 11° 50'W at 1800/1. Weather unfavourable for boarding. Endeavour to locate and escort to Clyde.
(C.in C. W.A. 1905/1 and 2303/1 to CANDYTUFT).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Sweep by 11th M/S Flotilla.

My 1832/31. Flotilla sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0435/1).

My 0435/1. Operation postponed Flotilla returned.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1000/1).

Possible Enemy Mines off Portland.

Plots received from Worth Maltravers between 0310 and 0450 of a vessel proceeding at speed of 6 to 7 knots indicate the possibility of a line of mines having been laid on an approx. bearing of 126 degrees from Portland Bill distance 5 to 12 miles depth of water 25 to 27 fathom

Two Minesweepers will be sent from Portland to search area today.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 0805/1 to C.in C. Portsmouth).

My 0805/1, interrogations of Master of Tug LYNCH shows that plots reported can now be satisfactorily accounted for by his movements while on passage from Dartmouth to Weymouth.
(F.O.I.C. Portland 1320/1).

Aberdeen Area.

My 2001/30/1. Position regarding Mines and C.E.F. Aberdeen Sub Command, up to 1800 31/1/41, since my 2001/30/1.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1142/1).

Experimental S.A.Gear in Destroyer.

A/M 1810/24 and A/M 0123/31.
TYNDALE has been detailed.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1154/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Harwich. 2 Mines detonated by L.L. Trawlers.

2 mines reported dropped 1346/31 by Puffin were detonated in position 51 55.9'N., 01 26.2'E and 51 56'N., 01 24.7' E. at 0830 and 1000 respectively by L.L.Trawlers, both double pulsing. First mine red, second unknown. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1204/1).

Sunk Head Buoy. 2 Mines dropped on 31/1 by enemy aircraft.

On entering harbour today Master of S.S. GRASLIN reports seeing five mines dropped by aeroplane at 1400/31/1 about 2 mines W.S.W. of the Sunk Head Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1241/1 to C.in C. Nore).

GOSSAMER
SUTTON.

Arrived 1247/1.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1300/1).

Thames Estuary.

Group Officer reports one Blue mine detonated by L.L.Trawlers at 2115/31, in position 041° B.4 Buoy 1.4 miles. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1340/1).

Group Officer L.L.Drifters reports two Red Mines detonated in the following positions:-

(a) At 0914/1/41 270° No.2 Sea Reach Buoy 3 cables.

(b) At 1220/1/41 270° No.2 Sea Reach Buoy. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1815/1).

My 1815. Position of these mines was swept over five times previously to detonation during the day. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 2310/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

B.S.50.
MEYNELL.

Request you sail MEYNELL to Humber to act as escort for B.S.50.
(C.in C. Nore 1730/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Firth of Forth.

Firth of Forth latest Searched Channels Cropesa as follows. Drifting mines continue to be reported off East Coast.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1845/1).

Liverpool.

Mine report to 1800/1. Total of 3 self detonated as follows:-
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2154/1).

My 2154/1. Add 2 self detonated approx. 180° Bar Light Vessel 1 mile. 1 self detonated approx. 180° Formby Light Vessel 1 mile.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2315/1).

Enemy Intelligence.

Finnish steamship BRITA THORSEN which arrived here last night was stopped by two German armed trawlers 30/1 just outside territorial waters off this port and taken in Vardo but released next day.
(Petsamo 1837/1 to D.N.I).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

2.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Ships not receiving signals.

Your 1949/31. noted. According to my reading of S. 2/41 para. 14 thence ships were quite wrong in keeping area B wave. They were not escort to an ocean convoy and were well inside Area A.
(A.C.O.S. 1052/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Route "Calf".

For N.C.S.O's.
My 1905/6/1. Following signal has been made by C.B.M.S. to ships in Areas 1 6A and 9. (Begins) Route CALF (Ends) Until further orders route to be followed is to be to Eastward of Cape Verde Islands.
(D.T.D. 0008/1 to A.I.G. 47).

Route CALF.
(D.T.D. 0009/1 to all Allied and Neutral Merchant ships in Areas 1, 6A and 9).

Swiss Govnt. Charters.

Your 1716/29/12. H.M. Govnt. have no objection in principle to ships being chartered to Swiss Govnt., for this trade, provided of course that they are ships warrant holders. Trade to Switzerland will not be permitted to take place via Italian Adriatic ports and it will be a condition of allowing ships to engage in this traffic that no other ships under same ownership trade to enemy, or enemy occupied or controlled territory.
(1655/1 to A.N.A. Belgrade).
(Head of M.)

Routeing Instructions.

Desired to institute some check as to whether Masters adhere strictly to their routeing instructions. Periodically routeing instructions should be compared with secret logs. If any serious divergence is detected a brief report should be telegraphed to Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1926/1 to A.I.G. 48 and 47).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.2.1942.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.100 — Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0201/1) Absentees.
(0947/1).

W.N.77. — Passed Dunnet Head at 0845.
(A.C.O.S. 0908/1).

F.S.100. — 23 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0946/1).

O.B.283. — Your 1255/31. (Sailing of O.B.283.)
Approved.
(C.in C. W.A. 1005/1 to N.C.S.O. Mersey.)

W.N.78. — 0935/31. H.M.Trawlers HORNPIPE (S.O.)
SPURS escorting two ships. No kites.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1015/31).

E.N.64. — Loch Ewe, Section arrived 1030/1 8 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1055/1).

F.S.99. — Humber and Wash ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1114/1).

F.N.95. — Humber and Wash ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1150/1).

F.S.99. — Convoy F.S.99 reported in Barrow Deep.
56 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1205/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

K.C.
JOHN BAKKE
ashore.

Arrived ELIZABETH BAKKE, TAURUS, RANJA, TAI SHAN. JOHN BAKKE ashore at Farland Head. Salvage operations in hand. Escorts have proceeded in accordance with previous instructions.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1220/1).

W.N.77.

Expected time of arrival Kinnaird Head 1930/1 speed of advance 6 knots.
(ULLSWATER 1223/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

F.N. and
F.S.

Cancel my 1546/30, additional escorts detailed as follows:-

F.N.	F.S.	
-	1	SHELDRAKE.
98	2	LE TIGRE, GREENFLY.
99	-	SNAPDRAGON.
100	3	TURQUOISE AGATE.
1	4	PUFFIN
2	5	WIDGEON
3	6	KINGSTON, OLIVINE, LORD PLENDER and GREENFLY.
-	7	SHEARWATER
4	8	KITTIWAKE.

(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1308/1).

E.N.65.

S.O. of escort in BERKSHIRE informs me he damaged his bow in collision with unknown ship last night and is proceeding Aberdeen. In view of size of E.N.65 request additional escort may be sent.
(WESTON 1315/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

E.N.65.

Now sole trawler escorting. Keeping wireless watch single operator periods.
(FANDANGO, 1415/1 to C.in C. W.A. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.66. W.N.79.	Act as additional A/A escort to E.N.66 sailing at 0700/3. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail JASON to join W.N.79 due Duncansby Head 1400/5. Code word for E.N. 66, MISSION, and W.N.79 RUSTY. (C.in C. Rosyth 1500/1).
F.S.l.	F.S.l. sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1504/1).
W.N.78 F.S.l F.N.96 W.N.77 E.N.65.	HASTINGS off Todhead 2000 to meet Convoy W.N.78. Convoy F.S.l. off Tees 2000. Convoy F.N.96 20 C. Buoy 1930. Convoy W.N.77 Kinnaird Head 1930. CURACOA leaves this convoy at dark and returns Scapa. Convoy E.N.65 Kinnaird Head 2000. (C.in C. Rosyth 1514/1).
O.B.281.	1040 arrived VANQUISHER. 1245 sailed PIMPERNEL. 1530 sailed CAMPANULA. Escorts for O.B.281. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1530/1).
E.N.65.	1300/1 from BERKSHIRE and 1315/1 from WESTON. Continue with E.N.65 to 055° 25' N., proceed thence to destination. (C.in C. Rosyth 1614/1 to WESTON).
E.N.65.	Passing Buchan Ness speed of advance 6 knots. (FANDANGO 1630/1).
O.B.281.	Sailed 1611/1 five ships nine knots. One ship with kite. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1635/1) E.T.A. and destination(1636/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.S.100. — Sailed 3 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1728/1).

F.S.1. — 5 ships from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1730/1).

K.C., VANQUISHER. — VANQUISHER's 2126/31 requested permission to leave Convoy K.C. when it is passed Cumbrae and to return to Liverpool. This was approved by my 2235/31. At 0543 I was informed that S.S. JOHN BAKKE, a ship of the K.C.Convoy, had gone aground at Crawford Point, Farland Head, South of the Cumbraes. No report was received from VANQUISHER from which it would appear that VANQUISHER had left the Convoy prematurely. Request you will obtain from VANQUISHER a full report of the circumstances in which Convoy was left.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1759/1 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

W.N.77. signals. — Signals giving names and destinations of all ships sailed in convoys are to be repeated to Admiralty. This information for WN.77 not yet received.
(D.T.D. 1839/1 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea).

W.N.78. F.S.1. — Rosyth 1/2 1941.
Departures. HASTINGS to meet W.N.78.
My 2357/31. CELIA did not sail.
WOOLSTON sailed with F.S.1 in addition to HOLDERNESS.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1907/1).

F.S.99. — Convoy F.S.99 arrived (exceptions).
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1956/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.78. — Loch Ewe Section sailed 1900/1. Two ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2129/1).

F.N.96. — Arrive May Island 0700 Request lights.
(VIMERA 2130/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

W.N.78. — My 2129/1. W.N.78 Loch Ewe Section only 1 ship sailed.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2230/1).

O.B.C. 231. — (a) 2300/1 (b) WILD SWAN (c) 20 ships (eleven with kites).
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 2305/1).

Ocean Convoys.

S.C.19. — Your 1605/31 and my 1300/31. There will now be no onward escort Clyde portion SCIMITAR and SARDONYX are both short of fuel. ANEMONE detached and NORTHERN DAWN A/S gear out of action.
(JACKAL 0002/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

H.X.105. — Convoy sailing Telegram as amended by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1927/1).

H.G.51. — Your 1315/1 part three. My position 55° 45' 11° 00' Convoy H.G.51 not met. Aircraft report no convoy within 100 miles at 1700/1. S.S. SALAMANA straggler from S.L.S.62 with bow badly damaged by collision in position 55° 10' 11° 56 at 1700/1 hove to. LONDONDERRY is standing by her till further orders.
(EGRET 2200/1 to C.in C. W.A. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Military Convoys.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.104.

Londonderry departures 1/2 LINCOLN SHIKARI SABRE GLADIOLUS CLARKA NORTHERN WAVE WELLARD for H.X.104.
(Capt: D. Londonderry 2214/1).

Force Z.

Sailed GLENGYLE, GLENROY, GLENEARL escorted by F.O.C. 10th C.S. in KENYA, OTTAWA, TESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT, SKEENA in accordance with Admty's 1655/22 and C.in C. W.A. 1231/22 and 1325/31.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0027/1).

Organisation and sailing arrangements.

Following A.M. is repeated to you for information.
(D.T.D. 1840/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ROCKPOOL. (British 4892 tons). Aground south side of Little Cumbrae. Forward tanks flooded. Hold dry. Require assistance to refloat. Loaded.
(ROCKPOOL to C.in C. Greenock Recd. 0114/1).

A Salvage Tug is being sent to assist you and S.S. SNAR.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0228/1 to ROCKPOOL).

SNAR. Your 2143/31. Salvage Tug is being sent.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0134/1 to SNAR).

JOHN BAKKE. (Norwegian 4718 tons). Ashore Crawford Point Earland Head. Holed No.2 making water. Send assistance soon possible. All attempts refloating failed.
(Port Patrick Radio 0547/1).

Assistance being sent.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0630/1)
See Coastal Convoys.

HOLLYHOCK. (Corvette) A/S set out of action major defect. Unable to effect repairs. Request instructions. Approx. D.R. position 060° 35'N., 011° 40'W.
(HOLLYHOCK 1020/1 to ARROW).

PASS OF LENY. C.S.V.O. Lyness 1220/31. Request repair port may be allocated. No Tug can be spared from Scapa.
(A.C.O.S. 1137/1 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

ROSLIN CASTLE. — Cancel my 1615/30/1. and 1415/31/1. ROSLIN CASTLE further delayed by engine defects. Expects to be ready to sail 3.2.41. Further signal will be made. (N.C.S.O. Glasgow 1200/1).

SANDHILL. — Rescue Tug SCHELDE left SANDHILL here and sailed for Cambeltown. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1251/1).

BERKSHIRE. — (A/S Trawler) Damaged bow in collision last night with unknown ship. Proceeding to Aberdeen. (WESTON 1315/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

WOOLER. — Intend sailing Tug LYNCH and M/V WOOLER in tow at 0001/2 from Weymouth to Southampton. E.T.A. Main Needles 0800/2. Route. (N.C.S.O. Weymouth 1315/1).

KAI. — (Esthonian, 1251 tons). Struck submerged wreckage between Trevose Head and Newquay and sank. Ten survivors landed Portrazth and ten on board S.S. ISLESMAN just arrived St. Ives. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1628/1).

ATHELREGENT. — (British Tanker 9581 tons). Reports defective D.G. (MALLOW 1700/1 to F.O.I.C. Liverpool).

M.L.1029. — M.L.1029 Padstow to Ardrishaig arrived Fleetwood 1200/1/2 with minor defects. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1730/1).

FAME. — Request you sail SHELDRAKE for Tyne to arrive daylight 3/2. She will form escort for FAME sailing from Tyne a.m./3, in tow of 2 tugs. (C.in C. Nore, 1740/1 to F.O.I.C. Yarmouth).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Intend to sail FAME in tow of WATERMEYER and FAIRPLAY I passing Sunderland Breakwater 0900/3. Request escort to arrive off Sunderland at that time. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1744/1 to C.in C. Rosyth).

DAMITO. (M/S Trawler) My 1826/1. Grounded off Needles. Subject to refloating without damage expect to sail 2300/1. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1841/1 to F.O.I.C. Portland).

ST. MELLONS. (rescue tug). Went aground whilst trying to tow S.S. BELGIA. Hoped she will be refloated at next high water. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1908/1).

W.B. WALKER. ASSURANCE reports making contact at 1800 today, with fore part of W.B.WALKER in 55° 27'N., 16° 28' W. Proceed to her assistance. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2159/1 to ST. OLAVES, SHEMARA, ANEMONE).

SALAMANA. (British 6676 tons). Straggler from S.L.S.62. Bow badly damaged in collision. LONDONDERRY standing by. (EGRET 2200/1). See Ocean Convoys.

VICEROY. (Destroyer) Asdic equipment defective. (WESTERN ISLES 2336/1).

PALLAETER. (Coaster) Reported abandoned in 055° 15' N., 005° 18'W at 2330/1. Drifting S.E. Keep sharp lookout. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2355/1 to WILD SWAN).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Convoy. — French armed trawler LA SETOISE passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1815/1 escorting the French M/V's MEDIE II 5078 tons. OUED TIFLET 1194 tons and AISNE 3654 tons. (D.O.R. 3/2).

North Atlantic.

Raider Report. — Following has been imcompletely received. RRRR (Raider). 33.55N., 30.05W shelled. (Freetown W/T 0320Z/1).

Surface raider reported in position 033° 55' N., 030° 05' W at 0320. (F.O.C.N.A. 0556/1 to S. and A. North Atlantic.)

OTUS. — OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 1050/1).

Air Report. — Daily return operations. (200 Group 1700/1).

CAMITO MARON. — My 1116/26.* CAMITO should be ready for service on 5/2. MARON on 8/2.
* Repairs to CAMITO.
(A.S. Gibraltar 1604/1).

Forces at Gibraltar. — Reply to F.O.C.N.A. 1258/31. (D.O.D.(F) 2245/1) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

BULOLO, identity of raiders.

A. Your 1905/31, is inconclusive evidence, as, for instance, we know that at least one ship could not have had heavier guns than six-inch as we know where all German eight-inch cruisers are.

B. Vitally important to determine whether one ship was a pocket battleship and most detailed interrogation of survivors is to be carried out. Evidence on following points is particularly required.

(i) Conditions of light.

(ii) Closest distance at which seen.

(iii) Whether broadside view was obtained.

(iv) Whether turrets were observed and if so how many.

(v) Number of guns fired in each salvo.

C. Reply to above to be passed by visual to CARADOC and passed by latter to Admiralty when well clear of TAMERLANE.

D. If CARADOC has parted company from TAMERLANE, BULOLO is to give above information to C.in C. S.A., on arrival in harbour.
(1st S.L. 0054/1 to BULOLO).

DORSETSHIRE)
KENYA)
DEVONSHIRE)
NORFOLK.)

Instructions until situation is clearer.
(D.O.D.(F) 0103/1 to C.in C. S.A.)
See Operations Volume.
Your 0103/1. Asking for information.
(C.in C. S.A. 1017N/1 to Admty).
See Operations Volume.

ADMIRAL SCHEER. (?).

S.S. EURYLOCHUS was sunk on 29/1 in 08° 15'N., 25° 04'W. by enemy raiders. There is evidence that these ships were the pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER accompanied by an armed merchant raider.
(D.D.I.C. 0126/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

F.O.I.C.S.
DEVONSHIRE.

My 1609/31.after making contact with DEVONSHIRE remain in area between R/V and 006° 30'N., 023° 30'W., until 1800/1 then proceed to Freetown for fuel.
(C.in C. S.A. 0331/1 to F.O.I.C.S.)

HAVKONG.

Overdue shipping HAVKONG due Durban 27/1 from Abadan not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1006/1).

MARGUERITE.
CROCUS.

Are required for service on South Atlantic Station. Report earliest date on which they can be ready to leave U.K.
(C.in C. W.A. 1007/1 to F.O.I.C's Glasgow, Liverpool).

MUNCASTER CASTLE,
WEIR BANK.

Overdue shipping my 1035/31. MUNCASTER CASTLE arrived Capetown. WEIR BANK due Capetown 28/1 from U.K. not arrived.
(S.O.(I)Capetown 1011/1).

DORSETSHIRE
S.L.Convoys,
NORFOLK
DEVONSHIRE.

Proceed so as to arrive in position 009° 20' N., 022° 00' W., at 1800/2, then patrol between this position and 011°40' N., 024° 10' W. Object is to provide cover to convoy S.L. and S.L.S.B and be within support distance of NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE. NORFOLK and DEVONSHIRE leave patrol on a line between 004° N., 021° W. and 006° 30'N 023° 30'W at 1800/1 to return to Freetown.
(C.in C. S.A. 1107N/1 to DORSETSHIRE).

PERTH
PRINCE,
AFRICAN
PRINCE.

Overdue shipping M.of S. 0045/30/12. reports PERTH PRINCE due Capetown 24/1 My 1005/28 reports this ship overdue. AFRICAN PRINCE arrived Capetown 31/1 January unannounced suggest C.C.S.O. re-examines, please confirm.
(N.O.I.C. Capetown, 1158B/1).

MOST SECRET.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

Departure 1400/1 DORSETSHIRE on patrol in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 1107/1.
(S.O.(I) Freetown, 1631N/1).

AFRICAN PRINCE.

Ministry of Shipping Vesca 1530/28/12.
Have you any news of AFRICAN PRINCE due Capetown 24/1 from Mersey departure 23/12?
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1202/1 to S.O.(I) Capetown).

AFRICA MARU suspicious conduct.

Suspicion of Japanese ship AFRICA MARU aroused by coincidence of her position with D/F estimate of raiders position.
Examination of log by Union Inspector of ships W/T indicates that ship has been in communication with Nauen frequently.
Material is being examined by S.O.(I) Simonstown. Considerable obstacles were put in the way of Inspector by master.
In order to avoid arousing or increasing existing suspicion of reason for examination of log no effort is being made to detain ship and she sails this afternoon for Union ports, Mombasa, Colombo and Far East.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 1240/1 to Admty).

Flying Boat and Air Squadrons W.Africa.

Your 1747/22/1. R.A.F. tentative target programme includes three flying boat squadrons for Freetown - Gibraltar area and one G.R. landplane and one fighter squadron Freetown. Impossible give even estimated dates for arrival although preparation aerodromes and certain essential buildings proceeding. Bathurst being developed as possible landing place for aircraft flown from America.
Up to three Blenheim bombers being retained at Takoradi. No other R.A.F. plans for expansion West Africa other than three Sunderlands referred to in my 2303/16.
(Head of M. 1605/1 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ELEANORA MAERSK. — Further your 2041/29 tanker ELEANORA MAERSK must not be delayed and should therefore not be considered.
(D.S.T. 1634/1 to N.O.I.C's Durban etc.)

Dispositions. — Weekly state at 1200/1. (C.in C. S.A. 1647/1).

DRAGON. — To sail 1800/2 to relieve BULOLO escorting TAMERLANE.
(C.in C. S.A. 1719/1/N) See Operation Vol.

DELHI. — DELHI to sail 0900/2. Proceed to St. Helena arriving noon 5/2 to fuel thence Simonstown by direct route.
(C.in C. S.A. 1731N/1).

NORFOLK, DEVONSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE. — Your 1017/1. (? 1107N/1) Orders for these ships.
(1st S.L. 2312/1 to C.in C. S.A.)
See Operations Vol.

DORSETSHIRE. — Admiralty 2312/1. Return to Freetown so as to arrive a.m./3.
(C.in C. S.A. 2325N/1 to DORSETSHIRE).

Mediterranean.

Genoa, Enemy Intelligence. — Following from Master and officers neutral ships which left Genoa on 25/1.

One Cavour Class Battleship in Genoa harbour (B.1).

On 25/1 this Battleship was in one of dry docks adjoining Molo Giano (C.2).

The number of identity of dry dock in question could not be established. On 25/1 six large secondary merchant vessels of six thousand/eight thousand tons were lying stern to Calata Gadda quay. (B.1).

/No

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

No sign of any undue activity in Genoa or ports. (B.1)
No LITTORIO class battleships seen. (Course of this neutral ship when approached Genoa). Existence of any contact minefield unlikely. (B.3).
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 0931/1 and 0934/1 to F.O. Force H).

German Air Position. — In the Mediterranean. Appreciation. (H.Q.R.A.F. M.E. 1056/1). See Mediterranean Volume.

Air Report, M.V. with prisoners bombed. — 1800/31. Steamship COLIUM conveying Italian prisoners hit by several bombs from 2 aircraft type unidentified but most probably German and drifted ashore in neighbourhood Sidi Barrani. Prisoners panicked and about 50 drowned. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1246/1).

Turkey, War Material. — Your 1226/28. Are Items (d) to (k) inclusive for land or sea service? (Controller 1346/1 to N.A. Ankara.)

German Aircraft, Sicily. — American N.A. Vichy informs American N.A. here 9/1.

1. Chief of second bureau told him that 800 German dive bombers were already definitely in Southern Italy and Sicily for use in Albania, Libya, and against Mediterranean Fleet.

2. Aerial bombing range near Romagne Montfaucon where reputed (?practice) with gun bombs carried (?out) regularly. (N.A. Madrid 1613/1).

Convoy B.S.F.1. — Sailing Telegram. 1300 G.M.T./1, 11 ships. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area, 1619/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Malta Air Report, Raids.

Raids. 2218 to 0016 2 enemy aircraft 1 of which identified in Searchlights as JU.88 circled over Malta. A.A. engaged. Some bombs in sea and 4 on land near Grand Harbour causing no damage or casualties.

Reconnaissance, DIELPI, Taranto, Syracuse, etc.

Reconnaissance. 0550 to 1231 Sunderland anti convoy patrol Eastern Tunisian coast with striking force standing by. At 0955 1 M/V 1,000 tons position 348 Zuara 116 miles course 180 speed 10 knots. At 1451 Sunderland took off to intercept and attack Italian DIELPI 2,000 tons reported to be leaving La Goulette Tunis at 1500 loaded with Toluol striking force also standing by. 0955 to 1530 photo reconnaissance Taranto. 0945 to 1159 reconnaissance Syracuse, Augusta, Catania and Messina for ships in harbour. 3 M/V's 10,000 tons each 10 miles west of Cape Vaticano course North.
(H.Q. Med., 1745/1 to Air Ministry).

Summary of German Bomber Activities.

1/2 A.874. Summary of German Bomber activities over Egypt and Palestine already described in my Daily Operational Summaries and amplified by most recent information.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. (1856/1)).

Mines in Suez Canal.

My 1059/1. D.W.I. Wellington aircraft exploded three mines red Polarity in canal between Lake Timsah and Great Bitter Lakes. Traffic has been resumed in this section. Hope to clear section Kabret to Port Tewfik on 2/2.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1931/1.)

HUNTLEY Sunk.

C.C. reports HUNTLEY sunk 20 miles West at 1745/31 by two Heinkels. Captain and seven wounded believed, 14 ratings missing.
(N.O.I.C. Alexandria, 2227/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

B.N.F.1.
B.N.14.

Departure 31/1 2225Z, FLAMINGO for B.N.F.1. 1/2. 0010Z CALEDON SHORNHAM INDUS and RATNAGIRI for B.N.14, 0340Z PARRAMATTA for B.N.F.1, 0253Z CHANTALA on patrol.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 0345Z/1).

HAWKINS.

Mombasa arrived 1/2 0450 G.M.T. HAWKINS.
(N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 0530Z/1.)

Operation "CANVAS"

My 0914/29. Intentions.
(C.in C. E.I. 0650Z/1 to Admty).
See Operations Volume.

Convoy B.N.14.

Sailing telegram 0100Z/1. Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aden, 0730Z/1).

Persian Gulf. Contraband Control.

Your 0602/26. Remarks on preliminary discussions with M.E.W. representative. Khor Kuwai indicated as most effective point of control since in any case it is the focus of traffic. Armed dhows would be most useful there. Are circumstances suitable to consider use of Walrus aircraft ?
(S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0302Z/1 to C.in C.E.I).

SHROPSHIRE.

My 1000Z/30. Preliminary medical report anticipates majority of cases will be fit to return to the ship p.m./3.
(SHROPSHIRE 0830Z/1).

British ship TROILUS (7422 tons) made a "Q" distress signal in position 003° 26'S., 052° 35'E. at 1107Z/1 and reported a suspicious vessel.
(C.in C. E.I. 1202/1 to E.I. Squadron, Portishead Radio no T.O.O.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Force K, HAWKINS. My 1202/1 as soon as HAWKINS has joined proceed at 18 knots towards this position. (C.in C. E.I. 1248Z/1 to S.O.Force K).

CAPETOWN, Force K. My 1202/1. No cancellation yet received. Following movements have been ordered.

(i) CAPETOWN from approx. 001° 20'N., 048° 48' at 1330Z/1 towards 003° 26'S., 052° 35' at 18 knots.

(ii) Force K from vicinity of Mombasa at about 1530Z/1 towards 002° 26'S., 052° 35' at 18 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 1440Z/1 to E.I. Squadron).

ORCADES. Transport ORCADES sailed Bombay 31/1 due Capetown 12/2.
(P.S.T.O. India 1902/1).

My 1440/1. Efforts to get into W/T communication with TROILUS have failed. It must therefore be assumed there was a disguised raider in position 003° 26'S., 052° 35'E., at 1107 G.M.T./1.
(C.in C. E.I. 1940/1 to E.I. Squadron).

Force K, Raider. Proposed cancelling of a certain operation to use for hunt.
(C.in C. E.I. 1946Z/1 to C.in C. Med.)
See Operations Volume.

CARTHAGE. Your 0528/31. Re Reliefs for engineer officers and supply ratings.
(D.S.T. 1618/1 to CARTHAGE.)

GALILEO GALILEI. Your 1645/23. (re Italian submarines GALILEO GALILEI) Proceedings were merely formal to establish no cargo on board and vessel was handed over to Naval Authorities.
(N.O.I.C. Aden, 1620Z/1 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

DELANE. — Store Carrier DELANE has left convoy W.S.6.A. and is returning to Durban. Piston cracked. Time required 4 days. (N.O.I.C. Durban 1650/1 to C.in C. E.I.)

China.

O.B. SORENSON. — Your 1827/29. O.B. SORENSON is at shell installation at Nonai. (Kobe, 0235Z/1 to D.N.I.)

Sourabaya threat of Japanese Invasion. — Governor East Java states intercepted telephone conversation between two important Japanese at Sourabaya and Lawang referred to Japanese attack on 10/2. Both Japanese immediately arrested but deny conversation. Governor states that Japanese have recently shown increasing anxiety as to their safety during preliminary stages of possible invasion. He assures me that in the event of trouble no difficulty is expected in rounding up all Japanese here. (Consul, Sourabaya T.H.I. 2100/1).

America and West Indies.

H.X.107 LACONIA. — Intend sailing LACONIA as ocean escort to H.X.107 subsequently returning to Halifax. (F.O.S.B.S. 0949/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

American and West Indies. (Contd.)

LYLE PARK
S.C.20.

British LYLE PARK returned from S.C.20 for repairs to life boat and accommodation. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 1107/1).

RONIN.

Should the Panamanian RONIN now trading on the East Coast of America put into a Dominion or Colonial port her arrival should be reported and all facilities refused pending instructions.
(D.T.D. 1116/1 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa C.in C. A.W.I.)

NAKO
MARU.

My 1049/21/1. Los Angeles reports 'U.S. Naval Intelligence Officer there states that consignment was listed on manifest as 'Arms and ammunition' followed by weight. No details given. He has received a report that vessel has false bottoms built into holds'.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1129/1).

COMORIN.

Your 1552/31 COMORIN arrived sailing for destination 0700/2. Owing to length of route ordered it is not anticipated she will arrive Freetown before (date).
(N.C.I.C. Trinidad 1149/1 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

BRASIL.

Request reply to my 1157/25.
(News of Norwegian Tanker BRASIL).
(D.T.D. 1818/1 to Consul, Galveston).

New Zealand.

HOBART
and
Transport.

Departure Wellington 0435Z/1. HOBART wearing flag of F.O.C.A.S. escorting H.T. NIEUW AMSTERDAM.
(N.Z.N.B. 0635Z/1).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PORTLAND. PORTLAND sailed from Talcahuano yesterday, 31/1.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1254Z/1 to S.A. Div.)

ANTARKTIS. After discharging some cargo at the oil quay, had returned to her anchorage on 1/2.
(D.S. 576).

HAMBURG. Trawler, 279 tons. Reported (B.2.) on 28/1 to be proceeding to Lofoten Islands to load fish and expected to be at Svolvaer, due W. of Narvik, from 15/2 to 18/2.
(D.S. 515 amended D.S.517).

SALZBURG
ARKADIA. SALZBURG arrived from Turkey ARKADIA left for Burgas.
(Verna 1753/31).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CELENO (Tanker).	Left Constanza. (Verna 1140/1).
HIELPI.	Your 1537/15. Information received that Italian Ship HIELPI intends to leave La Goulette Tunis at 1500 today 1/2 with cargo Toluene. (S.O.(I) Malta 1211/1 to Admty). For Air Search, see Mediterranean.
MAURO CROCE.	Left Barcelona 29/1 for Genoa. (D.S. 515).
LIGURIA.	Reported in The Times to be a wreck in Tobruk Harbour. (D.S. 515).
GIMMA.	Arrival 1/1 GIMMA from Palma. (Barcelona 1821/1).
GIOVANNI MARIA.	280 tons, carrying ammunition and food, sunk off Libyian Coast near Tobruk and crew rescued by a naval unit. (Lloyd's Gazette 31/1, D.S. 516).
FORTUNATA.	Reported that an Italian ship intended to leave La Goulette, Tunis, at 1500/1 with a cargo of Toluene. This is possibly part of cargo of FORTUNATA captured by French immediately before the Armistice. (D.S.516).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Arrival 0800/1 DRAGON escorting MENDOZA.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1109N/1).

Portugese S.S. ANGOLA is calling Freetown shortly carrying 115 French repatriates from South Africa to Casablanca. If accommodation available, personnel from MENDOZA should be repatriated by this means.
(Head of M. 1854/1 to C.in C. S.A.)

Passengers, Cargo, (Details).
Personnel friendly to Great Britain but not to extent yet of joining Free French they fear for their relatives.
(C.in C. S.A. 2357/1).

ALSIDA.

Your 1717/31. (ALSIDA leaving Marseilles).
I agree not to intercept in South American area.
(C.in C. S.A. 1341/1 to R.A.S.A.D.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.3.1942.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

KING ROBERT (torpedoed 29/1).

LADY MADELEINE arrived with 20 survivors from KING ROBERT.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0332/1)
KING ROBERT was in S.C.19, 22 survivors including master landed at Gourock in addition to the 20 reported above.
(D.S. 515 1/2).

W.B. WALKER. (torpedoed 28/1.

If fuel permits proceed to vicinity of position 56° 00'N., 16° 05'W. to escort ST. OLAVES who is searching for W.B.WALKER.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1245/1 to SHEMARA).

Your 0900. Continue search for W.B. WALKER position 56° 00'N., 05' 16° W. at 1000/30.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1254/1 to ST. OLAVES).

Following received, from ASSURANCE.
Made contact with fore part of S.S. W.B. WALKER 055° 27'N., (016° ?)28'W.
Impossible to tow. Dangerous to navigation.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1800/1 to C.in C. W.A.)

If nothing yet seen join ST. OLAVES and ASSURANCE at daylight in position 056° 00'N 016° 12'W at 1200/1 searching for W.B. WALKER. Continue search until noon/2 then escort tugs to Greenock.
(C.in C. W.A. 1859/1 to HESPERUS).

BOTUSK (torpedoed 31/1.)

VERBENA. Expected time of arrival Greenock 2400 today. Has 11 survivors on board from BOTUSK including one D.E.M.S. gunlayer. VERBENA requires refuelling and repairs to W/T transmitter.
(GENTAIN 1500/1 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

BOTUSK.
(Contd.)

Arrived VERBENA with 11 survivors from S.S. BOTUSK.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2355/1 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

1345/31. Enemy submarines in position 040° 59' N., 021° 15'W at 1245 G.M.T./31.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0101/1 to S. and A. N.A.Stan.)

0016. 53°-54° N., 18°- 30° W. indefinite position.
(D.S. 515).

0322.)
0458.) Within 160' of 50° N., 18° W. indefinite position. (D.S.515).

Admiralty message AF. Position 40° N., 21° 15'W at 1245/31 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0248/1 to G.B.M.S.Area 1).

1217. 52.40 N., 21° W. position indefinite. German. (D.S.516).

Freetown's 2213/31 and Ascension's 2248/31.

Bearings from home stations place unit probably a U/Boat to the Westward of Ireland.
(D.D.I.C. 0433/1 to C.in C. S.A.)

1337. By D/F at 1337 BST position of German unit possibly U/Boat was approx. 50° N., 27° W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1535/1).

1817. 55° N., 15°- 21° W., position indefinite. (German) (D.S.516).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

1.2.1941.
Saturday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN. (Contd.)

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.

German.

1 nearing Trondhjem or Bergen.
1 between 58° N., and 60° N near 20° W.
1 within 60 miles of 56° N., 21° W.
1 within 30 miles of 54° N., 18° 30'W.
1 within 30 miles of 52° 40'N., 21° W.
1 within 60 miles of 51° N., 19° W.
1 within 60 miles of 56° N., 13° W. or southbound from there.
1 in 40° N., 21° 15'W at 1345/31.
Possibly 1 near Cape Verde Islands.

Italian.

Possibly 1 near Canary Island.
1 in Bay of Biscay patrolling.
1 near 47° N., 10° W. bound for Gironde.
8 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C. 1411/1).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

British Air Activity

Bomber Command aircraft attacked Boulogne docks last night and again today. Ostend was also attacked last night.

Coastal Command aircraft last night attacked the HIPPER class cruiser in dock at Brest and estimate that they dropped mines in the target area.

C. in C., Nore expects night minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary to be resumed on or after 4/2. Fighter aircraft are to be kept clear and A/A ships will be stationed in three areas.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy attacked on Northern Convoy Route

Convoy O.B. A was attacked this morning on the Northerly Convoy Route and WAZIRISTAN was damaged. This is the first occasion on which a convoy has been attacked on this route which was adopted on 29/1. No tug was available in the Western Approaches Command, and Fleet tug BANDIT was sent from Scapa, leaving no rescue, salvage, Fleet or ocean going tug in the Orkneys or Shetlands area.

Attack in Thames Estuary

THE
SS. SULTAN was bombed and sunk this morning in the Thames Estuary.

2 F.W. aircraft destroyed

Two enemy F.W. Condor aircraft have been destroyed by fire from light A.A guns of a D.E.M.S. and a rescue tug. It appears that these aircraft are very vulnerable to close range A.A. fire, even from light M.G's, and the Admiralty have given orders for the rearrangement of close range weapons in warships and D.E.M.S. as necessar to deal with the form of attack usually adopted by F.W. aircraft

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Operation E.A. — Forces sailed this morning to carry out Operation E.A. but the operation had to be abandoned on account of the weather.

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and Harwich and Humber areas.

M/S Trawler ALMOND struck a moored mine and sank off Falmouth.

Newport and Barry Inlets were reopened today.

North Atlantic

Considerable delays are being experienced in the discharge of ships at Gibraltar.

Mediterranean

Operations "Picket" and "Result" — S.O. Force H reports today the result of operations "Picket" (Attack by F.A.A. on power plant in Sardinia) One Swordfish was lost.
Operation "Result" was abandoned owing to heavy N.N.W. gale.

Reinforcements — Details of reinforcements of the Mediterranean Fleet are given today.

Mines in Suez Canal — Further mines were exploded in the Suez Canal today.

East Indies

Operation "Brench" — S.O.Force K today reported the attack on Mogadishu by F.A.A. from FORMIDABLE completed. There was little opposition. All aircraft returned.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

SS EMPIRE CITIZEN a straggler from Convoy O.B. 279 was torpedoed shortly before midnight in the N.W. Approaches.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Finnish Ships for Reykjavik — Your 0.519 27/1. War Office agree provided you take special security steps to deal with inconing vessels. (W.O. 0345/2. to G.O.C., Iceland Force)

ARGUS D.L.Trials without Attendant Vessel — Your 0946/1. This is confirmed. (D.O.D. H. 1146/2 to ARGUS)

Tug Situation on Orkneys and Shetland Areas. — With despatch of BANDIT to assist WAZIRISTAN there is now no rescue, salvage, Fleet, or ocean going tug in Orkneys or Shetlands area to deal with casualties. Request situation may be reviewed. (C.S.V.O. Scapa 2155/2 to A.C.O.S.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/2 (D.C. 1203/2 and 1539/2)

Scapa defence — Two indicator loops out of action. Request cable ship may be sent as soon as possible to effect repairs and lay H.D.A. "D". (A.C.O.S. 1110/2)

Progress Report 2/2 (R.A. Scapa 2015/2)

Movements

FURIOUS NEPTUNE JACKAL — Delayed by weather. E.T.A. your vicinity 2030. (JACKAL 1000/2 to FURIOUS)

My 1635/31. New R/V with FURIOUS, NEPTUNE and destroyers as 054° 30' N., 020° 40'W at 1100/3. B.S.T.
2. FURIOUS and NEPTUNE pass through 054° N 021° 40' W., to 056° N., 017° W., and thence as in my 1605/31. (C. in C., W.A., 1105/2 to JACKAL)

To avoid U-Boat reported in 052° 40' N., 021° 40' W., at 1217/1 proceed forthwith through following positions, to Clyde by C.Z.S. 189 and 53. R/V for destroyers (as 1105/2). NEPTUNE to be detached to Scapa at position (n) (C. in C., W.A., 1449/2 to FURIOUS)

/My 1449.....

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements

FURIOUS NEPTUNE JACKAL-Contd.	706. My 1447. Amended position U-Boat should be 052° N., 021° 40' W., (C. in C., W.A., 1747/2 to FURIOUS)
	712. Cancel my 1747. My 1449 position of U-Boat should read 052° 40' N., 021°W (C. in C., W.A., 1949/2 to FURIOUS)
Northern Patrol	Trawler Lines tonight. 4 trawlers. (AC.C.S., 1509/2)
WORCESTERSHIRE ISLE OF SARK	Intend sail WORCESTERSHIRE for R/V 180° Sarda 7' Times as follows. To reach R/V at 1700/5. VANOC and WIVERN escort. Air cover only arranged until dark/3. SS ISLE OF SARK sails in company for Falmouth. (C. in C., Portsmouth 1647/2)
EREBUS	Request fighter protection for EREBUS escorted by EGLINTON and QUORN sailing for Sheerness 1000/3. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1737/2 to C. in C., Nore)
C.S. 10	To avoid U-Boat reported in 053° 20' N. 021° 30' W., at 1736/2 proceed through 054° N., 025° W. and thence to R/V C. (C. in C., W.A., 1957/2 to C.S. 10)

Operations

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA	Sailing postponed 24 hours owing to unsuitable weather. (C. in C., Nore, 0936/2.)
Operation N.C.	Will be carried out. Zero hour 0115/3. (V.A.Dover, 1415/2)
Operation P.W. 2.	Is to be carried out as soon as weather permits. (C. in C., Nore, 2242/2 to BEEHIVE)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Submarines

Forth Sanctuary Bombing Restrictions — Ops./154.2/2. Institute total S.B.R. Forth Sanctuary immediately until 1900/2. (H.Q.C.C. 0945/2 to 18-16 Groups.)

TUNA — F.O. (S) 1132/24. TUNA enters N.A. Station and shifts W/T watch at 1200/4. Route. Not entering patrol area until a.m./5 (S.2. 1106/2)

SUNFISH — Leaves patrol 1800/2. Route to base. Reference A.N. 1748/20/1 entering into War Channel 0600/6. (S.6. 1155/2)

You are not to close within 10 miles of Norwegian coast when to North of Lister. (F.O.S. 1303/2 to SUNFISH)

OTUS — A. On leaving Patrol after dark/5. proceed W. of San Miguel and through following positions to Portsmouth.
D. C. in C., W.A., and C. in C., Portsmouth requested to keep OTUS informed of movements of own and enemy forces while in the Home Station. (F.O.S. 1639/2 to OTUS)

Positions — At 0800/3 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1742/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy O.B.A.
WAZIRISTAN
Damaged

Help needed for convoy ROBIN in 61° 22' N 10° 28' W., One F.W. (HAVELOCK 1000/2 1001/2)

WAZIRISTAN (British, 5135 tons) damaged by near miss and stopped in 061° 21' N., 011° 12' W. Request Tug. (HAVELOCK 1041/2 to A.C.O.S.)

Is tug from W.A.C. being sent. (A.C.O.S. 1412/2 to C. in C., W.A.)

My 1041. WAZIRISTAN has now 12 feet of water in Engine room and Boiler room. Has tug been sent. (HAVELOCK 1426/2 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1412/2. Can you send tug from Scapa as none available in W.A. (C. in C., W.A., 1635/2 to F.O.C.A.S.)

BANDIT is being sent. (A.C.O.S. 1705/2)

Sailing BANDIT (F.O.C.O.S. 2216/2 to HAVELOCK)

THE SULTAN

(British, 824 tons) Rescue Tug ST. MELLONS proceeding to assistance SS SULTAN reported bombed near B 7 buoy Barrow Deep. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1043/2)

Steamer SULTAN bombed and sunk at 1000 today. Position about 51° 43' 24" N., 01° 26' 21" E. 12 survivors being brought to Brightlingsea 1230/2)

Following Casualties. (details) (N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea, 1430/2)

OLYMPIER
(Bombed 30/1)

SS TOWARD recovered boat load of survivors from OLYMPIER in 055° 30' N., 009° 10' W., at 0600. Survivors report another boat with 5 men adrift in area. (FOLKESTONE 1101/2)

Boat load of survivors picked up at 0600/2 Another boat with 15 men adrift in vicinity. Search area as long as fuel permits. (C. in C., W.A., 1437/2 to KINGCUP and 1447/2 to Ships)

/Vulnerability....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Vulnerability of Condor Aircraft

Two enemy F.W. Condor aircraft have been destroyed as a result of fire from light A.A. guns of a D.E.M.S. and a rescue tug. Interrogation of prisoners reveals that these aircraft are very vulnerable to close range A.A. fire even from light M/Cs. The two successes referred to were obtained through holding fire until range was point blank.

Form of attack preferred is generally from bow to stern. Height always very low. Warships and D.E.M.S. should arrange that some of their close range weapons can fire forward if necessary transferring at least one M/G for this purpose. Kites and P.A.C. rockets are useful deterrents against these attacks. N.C.S.O.s to stress above points at Convoy conferences. (A.C.N.S. H. 1332/2: A.C.M. H. 80 AZ)

Dover Area

Fighters have been sent to assistance of SEMAPHORE (2 trawlers in Dover Area) (Nore W/T 1523/2)

May Island Proposed C.H.L. Station

Your 1547/30. Matter is being represented to R.D.F. Committee. (D. of L.D. 1622/2)

Dover Bombed

At 1517 today a Dornier 215 dropped between 8 and 10 bombs on Dover. Damage. (no naval) (V.A. Dover 1841/2)

BARON RENFREW (Bombed 28/1)

Boarded ship at 1400. Weather rapidly deteriorating. 4 attempts to connect unsuccessful. Motor lifeboat lost. 5 men remainin on BARON RENFREW awaiting abating of weather in 055° 30' N., 011° 50' W approx. (TENACITY 1914/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Operation E.A.

Scapa departure ARETHUSA, AURORA, INTREPID, IMPULSIVE, MATABELE, TARTAR 0830/2. (A.C. O.S., 0851/2)

One section of three Blenheims from Sumburgh will afford protection within effective Fighter range during daylight 3rd and 4th. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1046/2 to ARETHUSA)

My 2234/31. Does information in Chief of Staff (41) 54 dated 22/1 para 16 refer to area in which operation EA is taking place. (C. in C., H.F., 1155/2 to Admty.)

Your 1155/2. No. Area referred to is that given in my 1258/16/1. (D.D.I.C. 1559/2 to C. in C., H.F.)

Operation abandoned owing to weather. (ARETHUSA 2116/2 to C. in C., H.F.)

Humber

M/S Trawler sank 1 drifting mine of Dutch 7 horn type between 62 F and 62 G buoys on 30/10. Mine apparently laid recently (F.O.Humber 0903/2)

Operation B.S. 50

Procedure for TEVIOT BANK and MEYNELL Laying will begin at 1200/3 (S.O.M/L Immingham 0950/2)

Operation postponed 24 hours on account of gale warning. All times in my 0950/2 to be 24 hours later accordingly (S.O. M/L Immingham 1120/2)

Operation S.N. 7.

R.A.M.L. 0021/30 and 1612/31. NIGERIA is to provide close escort for 1st M.L.S and is to R/V with R.A.M.L. at entrance to port Z.A. at 1830/4.
(2) RODNEY screened by 4 destroyers is to sail from Scapa Flow p.m/4 to cover operation.
(3) Para 2 of my 1828/29 is cancelled.
(C. in C., H.F. 1027/2 to R.A.M.L.)

Thames Estuary

Mines detonated 1/2. (details) (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1125/2, 1140/2)

/Harwich.....

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

Harwich Area	One red mine detonated by LL drifters in 51° 55.3' N., 01° 22.2' E., at 1105 (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1159/2 and 1549/2)
Newport	Ships may now leave and enter Newport. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff, 1226/2)
TASMANIA (Mined 24/1)	Intend sailing TASMANIA accompanied by tug CHARING CROSS from Leith Roads for Middlesboro at 1600/3. Speed adjusted so as to provide TASMANIA with protection of F.S. 3 which leaves Methil at 2300/3. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1235/2)
Barry	My 1842/30. Ships may now enter and leave Barry inlet. Precautions. (F.O.I.C., Cardiff 1559/2)
Milford Haven	My 1117/31. Hope to open Milford Haven to all ships from 1400/3. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1810/2)
Spurn Point 2 mines detonated	Today LL Trawlers exploded 2 mines. (details) (F.O.Humber 1814/2)
ALMOND Sunk	(M/S Trawler) Struck moored mine and sank in 50° 03' 30" N., 4° 55' W., 3 survivors. (F.O.I.C., Falmouth 1825/2)
War Channel Sweep	Details. (A.C.O.S. 2151/2)
Expected Minelaying by A/C in Thames Estuary after 4/2. Precautions.	Nore No332A/40/J. of 25/1/14. It is expected that night minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary may be resumed on or after 4/2. Request fighters may be kept clear of Thames Estuary at night from this date until further signal is made. Areas in which A.A. ships will be stationed nightly are as follows:-

/(A).....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining

Expected Minelaying by A/C in Thames Estuary after 4/2. Precautions Contd.

(A) Harwich. Area between lines joining Landguard point, Corton L.V., S.E. Shipwash buoy and B. 8 buoy.
(B) Barrow deep between B. 8 and B. 4 buoys.
(C) Thames Estuary East of 0° 39' E. between parallels of 51° 35' N., and 51° 25' N., (C. in C., Nore, 2214/4/2 to H.Q.F.C.)

Enemy Intelligence

Pencarei Light

Pencarei Light burning full brilliance on nights of 23rd 30th and 31st January. On 2nd latter nights light was burning from about 2000 onwards. (TAKU 2115/2)

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Ocean Convoys

O.B. 281 — (a) 0500/2/2. (b) Unescorted (c) 2. (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0815/2)

F.S. 100 — Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0935/2)

F.N. 96 — Humber ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Humber, 0934/2)

F.S. 1 — 40 ships. (F.O.I.C., Tyne 0954/2)

O.B. 272 — Your 1832/31. WELLINGTON reports your 2150/12 was not received. (C. in C., W.A 1109/2 to Admty.)

E.N. 66 — (A) 0730/3
(B) Escorts
(C) 40 ships
(E) Code Words:-
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1121/2)

O.B. 279 — Disperse when Escorts leave. (C. in C., W.A., 1125/2)

F.S. 1. — Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1157/2)

E.N. 96 — Arrived 1145/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1206/2)

F.N. 92 — 1000/2 25 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1229/2)

F.N. 98 — Ships and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1301/2)

? — No fighter escort this evening, kites should be flown. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1340/2)

/W.N. 77.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

Coastal Convoys-Contd.

W.N. 77 — Arrived 1500/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1516/2)

F.S. 2. — Sailed 1445/2. 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1549/2)

Ships and destinations (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1651/2)

F.S. 99 — Arrived except THE SULTAN
F.S. 100 — Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1929/2)

F.S. 2 — Sailed from Methil 1445 (F.O.I.C., Tyne 2108/2)

9 M.V's. — 9 M/V's to sail 1630/3 for Hartland Cap and Bristol Channel ports. Escort. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2141/2)

W.N. 79 — 1917/2. 17 ships. Eight with kites. Escorts. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2150/2)

Ocean Convoys.

H.G. and S.L. — Your 1546/27 H.G. and S.L. (S) convoys are both for ships which can maintain a speed of 7½ knots in normal weather conditions. The slow speed of advance of some H.G. convoys is due to great effect of bad weather on the small ships comprising them. (D.T.D. 0107/2 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)

S.L. 62 — Following ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0910/2)

H.G. 53 — Ships and Destinations (V.A.C.N.A. 1243/2)

S.L. 62 — Following ships arrived (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1538/2)

/M.X. 103.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

~~Coastal~~ ocean Convoys-Contd.

H.X. 103 — Following arrived. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1549/2)

S.L. 62
H.X. 103 — Following arrived (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1858/2)

O.O.
Convoys — Admty. 2017/21/12/40 slow ships for North Atlantic and West Indies ports may now also be included in O.G. Convoys. Such ships are not to be detached from the convoy until south of 50° N. (D.T.D. 1906/2)

S.C. 20 — Meet. (C. in C., W.A., 1919/2 to HARVESTER etc.)

B.H.X. 104 — (D.T.D. 2204/2)

Military Convoys

W.S. 6. — My 1932/1. Reformation in one group. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1526/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

DESPINA — (Greek, 3016 tons) DESPINA asking for tug to enter Clyde with damaged rudder. (F.O.I.C., Greenock to Admty 0014/2)

ST. MELLONS — (tug) Refloated. (ST. MELLONS 0301/2)

Arrived 1010/2. (F.O.I.C., Harwich 1017/2)

WOOLER — My 1315/1. LYNCH with WOOLER in tow. Sailed at 0150/2. (N.C.S.O. Weymouth 0812/2)

NAROCZ (Polish, 1795tons) — Returned from S.C. 20 with engine trouble (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 0825/2)

EMMY — (Greek, 3895 tons) Returned from S.C. 20 for repairs. (N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 0825/2)

CHURCHILL — E.T.A. Reykjavik 1630 B.S.T. today. Request repairs to Gyro and Magnetic compass before proceeding to join convoy. Degaussing cable and A/S equipment also broken. (CHURCHILL 0955/2 to F.O. Iceland)

PALLAETER (Coaster) — (Belgian Coaster) Admty. 1323/13. For information. First begins:- ROSEMARY to C. in C., W.A. My position 055° 15' N., 005° 18' W. Have rescued crew of 5 from PALLAETER bound from Dublin to Ardrossan. She is dereliet and drifting rapidly in S.E. direction. Suggest patrol vessels warn shipping. 2327/1 Ends.
Second:- Keep sharp lookout. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2355/2 to WILD SWAN)
Third: Endeavour to contact and warn shipping. Tug COCKSPUR has been ordered to proceed from Ardrossan. (F.O.I.C., Greenock 0104/2 to COILA)
(F.O.I.C., Greenock, 1005/2 to Admty.)

JOHN BAKER — Refloated and now in Rothesay Bay. (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1151/2)

/CHULMLEIGH....

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS-Contd.

CHULMLEIGH (British, 5445 tons) — Aldergrove reports:- Aircraft reports CHULMLEIGH in 55° 45' N., 8° 25' W., at 1240/2. Destroyer standing by. When challenged, CHULMLEIGH made signal Londonderry reports me ashore. (F.O.I.C., Belfast 1450/2 to C. in C., W.A.,)

SALAMAUA — (British, 6676 tons) My position 1900 055° 32' N., 007° 21' W.

SALAMAUA damaged in collision in company. V.A. states leaks under control. Wish to proceed to make good 9 knots. Request instructions. (LONDONDERRY 1900/2)

Your 1900/ Continue in company of SALAMAUA. Trawler PENTLAND FIRTH will proceed with you off Belfast at 0800/3 approx. and escort her to Derry dock. When trawler joins return Londonderry. (C. in C., W.A., 2337/2 to LONDONDERRY)

HEIRE — (Norwegian, 807 tons) Sailed CAROLINE MOLLER to assist HEIRE. Lost propeller off Lands End. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1912/2)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

CASTILLO ALMANSA.

Spanish CASTILLO ALMANSA sent in to Gibraltar. Sighted steering 225 Ceuta to Teneriffe. Boarded in 030° 30'N. 015° 20'W. at 1000/1. Ex STANCROFT.

Cargo of empty oil drums. No navigert. Speed 8 knots. Routed through 064° 10 miles Cape Spartel. Should arrive Gibraltar daylight Tuesday.
(MARSDALE 0800/2).

Submarines.

OTUS on patrol on surface Ponta Delgada. TUNA 044° N. 017° W. proceeding on surface to relieve OTUS speed 10 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1038/2).

W/T Traffic.

F.O.C.N.A. 1102/2. See Operations Volume.

EMPIRE TROOPER.

Date of sailing (F.O.C.N.A. 1334/2).

Discharge of ships at Gibraltar

Considerable delays are being experienced in the discharge of ships at Gibraltar. In view of vital necessity for quick turn round of shipping request you will consider in conjunction with the Military and Shipping Authorities any arrangements that can be made to expedite matters.
(D.T.D. 1721/2 to F.O.C.N.A.).

ORANGE LEAF. ST. DAY.

Recall Oiler ORANGE LEAF and Fleet Tug ST. DAY.
(S.O. Force H. 1835/2 to F.O.C.N.A.).

Operations "Picket" & "Result".

Operation PICKET. 8 aircraft in attacking force experience heavy A.A. fire along approach valley and intense at target. Weather conditions bad overland. Three torpedoes probably hit dam. Results unobserved. One Swordfish failed to return.

RESULT abandoned owing to heavy N.N.W. gale.
(S.O. Force H. 1922/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

HAVKONG. — Overdue shipping cancel my 1006/1 HAVKONG arrived Durban. (S.O.(I) Capetown 0910/2).

BRIDGEWATER. towing S.S. GOVERNOR. — Your 2055/1 Continue to tow to Lagos. (C. in C. S.A. 0911/2 to BRIDGEWATER).

Cancel my 0911/2. Leave Governor at Takoradi and proceed Lagos. (C. in C. S.A. 1037/2 to BRIDGEWATER).

AFRICA MARU. Suspicious Ship. — Re. S.O.(I) Capetown's 1310/1/2/41. Ship's W/T log shows communications received from NAUEN practically every other day. The ship has also passed traffic to NAUEN. Received on Frequencies on 06232/25/1 on 0300 kc/s. Simonstown heard a ship JOJN (Unlisted) calling AFRICA MARU bearing 285° Class 2. AFRICA MARU replied bearing 285° Class 2, but no traffic heard by us. These transmissions were not recorded in the log under examination. It is suggested AFRICA MARU may have been retransmitting raider signals thus giving a false position by D/F bearings. Ship is now being held at Capetown as part of cargo is consigned by firms on Statutory List. It might be possible to photograph the W/T operators log with a view to translation but this cannot be done without suspicion of our motive. Request immediate instructions. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1030B/2).

WEIR BANK. — Overdue Shipping. My 1011/1, WEIR BANK arrived Capetown (S.O.I. Capetown 1117/2).

DELHI. — Departure 0900/2 DELHI in accordance with C. in C. S.A. 1731/1. (S.O.(I) Freetown 1141/2).

/CAPETOWN.....

War Diary. 2.2.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

CAPETOWN. CASTLE. D. of S.T. 1744/27/1 CAPETOWN CASTLE proceeding Capetown not Durban. Adty 0303/22/1, 1000 tons bagged maize loaded Capetown October in lower holds now overstowed with military stores and 20 ton lift in number 2 hold. Ship estimates three days required discharge maize and reload stores. (C. in C. S.A. 1321/2 to D. of S.T.).

DRAGON. Departure 1800/2 DRAGON in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1720N/1. (S.O.I. Freetown 1810N/2 to Admty).

Mediterranean.

Reinforcements. 1st S.L. 0028/2, 0130/2. See Mediterranean Volume.

BANKURA. BAMORA. BARPETA. Your 1500/1/2 Yes please. (C. in C. Med 0753/2 to C. in C. E.I.).

R.C. of Taranto etc. I.78 2/2. My 1.77 1/2. Photos show following: Treat with reserve. (H.Q. Med. 1030/2).

SANDICHIARA. Attacked off Petsoral 30/1 (See Italian (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1143/2). Merchant Ships)

Mines exploded in Suez Canal. Valona bombed. 5 sweeps of Suez Canal by 2 Wellingtons exploded 3 mines laid by German aircraft night 29/30 Jan. between Ismailia and Bitter Lakes. R.C.'s reported 17 included 7 large ships Benghazi and Benina aerodrome almost deserted. 1/2 5 Blenheims bomed targets at Valona. (H.Q. R.A.C. M.E. 1226/2).

Suez Mining My 1931/1. Aircraft exploded one mine in canal today between Geneffe and Shallufa Red Polarity. One additional unexploded mine discovered in same section in shallow water. Traffic delayed until this is dealt with. (S.B.N.O. Suez 1902/2 to Admty etc).

/DORSETSHIRE.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 2.2.1941. Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

DORSETSHIRE hospital ship bombed.	Report details of bombings of Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE. (C. in C. Med 2017/2 to R.A. Alexandria).
Enemy Mines DORSETSHIRE bombed. HUNTLEY sunk UPHOLDER Submarine success. S.S. DESMOULEA torpedoed.	Situation report. Enemy minelaying activity by air developing. Anticipate Canal reopen to traffic 2/2. Mines believed magnetic laid 0630/1 at Sollum Enemy air attacks also being made on Coastal traffic and Western Desert ports. Egyptian Transport Sollum carrying 746 prisoners attacked off Sidi Barrani 1830/31 and beached 11 prisoners killed 13 missing. Hospital ship DORSETSHIRE bombed at 1850/31 in Gulf of Sollum and again at 0630/1 in (Sollum, Sidi Barrani) some damage from near miss. HUNTLEY sunk 1800/31 30 miles West Mersa Matruh possibly by aircraft torpedoes no details yet. Clearance of Derna Harbour proceeding with raising the landing army supplies there 2/2. UPHOLDER sank 2 merchant ships 3000 and 5000 tons East coast Tunisia 0430/28 and 1620/30. Aircraft saw explosions in 10000 tons ship off Tripoli 29/1 still outside harbour 31. One heavily down by bows with lighters alongside. British tanker DESMOULEA carrying light oil to Greece torpedoed possibly by destroyer or E-boat in 035° 31'N. 028° 34'E. at 0400/31 towed to Suda Bay by DAINTY, cargo undamaged. (C. in C. Med., 2140/2).
Enemy Report.	From D/F bearings 2 Italian warships (All call sign 4 G Q and 9 G A) were in a position some 30 miles S.W. of Corfu at 1330 G.M.T./2. (Capt. O.D. Alexandria. 2210/2).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

2.2.1941.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

TROILUS's raider report orders to Force K.

Your 1440Z/1. In view of my 0103/30 and 1710/31 diversion of Force K. not approved as raider may be anywhere by the time Force K. gets to position of TROILUS. (1st S.L. 0027/2 to C. in C. E.I).

TROILUS suspicious ship report cancelled.

My 1940/1 TROILUS Cancelled message in accordance with Adty message DV at 1345Z/2 It appears she was frightened of Dutch ship ALPHARD (German built). (C. in C. E.I. 1066/2).

Operation by Force K.

Re Adty 0027/2 proceed now to Aden so as to arrive A.M./5 Mogadishu Sweep is cancelled. (C. in C. E.I. 0056Z/2 to ?S.O. Force K).

S.O. Force K. 0225Z/2 C. in C. E.I. 0248Z/2, 0442Z/2 See Operations Volume. Operation completed (S.O. Force K. 2055Z/2) See Operations Volume.

CARLISLE, defect.

CARLISLE has reported lower half of starboard "A" Bracket Bush missing. Being sailed for docking Bombay. (C. in C. E.I. 0812/2).

SHROPSHIRE.

My 0830Z/1 total cases 124 Epidemic Dying down. Details. (SHROPSHIRE 1000Z/2).

Force T.

My 0730/30/1. As it is desirable for force T. to operate on trade route as soon as possible, intend ENTERPRISE to escort W.S.5A. to latitude of Port Sudan only, then return to Aden (corrupt group) and as soon as convenient be sailed to Mombasa. Presume suitable escort can be provided for W.S.5A to Suez. (C. in C. E.I. 1200Z/2 to S.N.O. Red Sea).

/S.S. JARAGOLA.....

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

SS JARAGOLA Raider Report

995. (1) British ship JARAGOLA made a Q distress signal at 1020 G.M.T./2 in 001° 36' S., 049° 59' E.
(2) Message was cancelled by G.R.Z.M. at 1155 G.M.T. 2nd used G.T.A. Transmitter believed same as at 1020 report. (C. in C., E.I., 1236Z/2)

Ship sighted was CAPETOWN.(see 1824/14)

My 1236/2. Ship cancelled route instructions in accordance with Admty. Message D.V. at 1300 G.M.T./2. (C. in C., E.I. 1326/2)

Your 1236Z/2 and my 1949/14/12 to G.B.M.S. Are you satisfied as to genuineness of cancellation. (D.S.O., 1933/2 to C. in C., E.I.)

CAPETOWN, orders.

2. Proceed to Port Victoria Seychelles so as to arrive about 0600Z/4. (C. in C., E.I., 1750Z/2)

ALEXANDRE ANDRE

Belgian tanker. Re using (D.T.D. 1720/2 to R.A. Malaya)

Kismayu

Photographic R.C. of Kismayu shows 16 ships on 30/1. (C. in C., E.I., 1936Z/2, to Admty.)

American & West Indies

Suspicious Ship reported by GLOUCESTER CITY

The following has been read. QQQQ 51 45 N 41 29 W GLOUCESTER CITY suspicious vessel closing. (Lands End Radio 0034/2)

GLOUCESTER CITY 51.45 N., 41.16 W. Cancel my QQQQ 0034/2 Vessel has disappeared from sight ends. (Valentia Radio 0139/2, GLOUCESTER CITY T.O.R. 0240/2, 0252/2)

BRAZIL

Your 1157/25/1. Following reply was sent to Fairmiss 1210/25- local agents report ship diverted from Bahrein Island to Galveston, E.T.A. early in February. (Galveston, 0955/2)

/LAUREANT MEADS.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies-Contd.

LAUREANT MEADS — My 1513/29 (Belgian ship LAUREANT MEADS, aground in Kingston Harbour) Examination by divers revealed no damage. Cargo reloaded intact and ship sailed 1/2 for Halifax convoy. (N.O.I.C., Kingston, 1205/2)

Bermuda Contraband Examination — Your 1945/30. Examination and detention of passengers in ships and aircraft calling at Bermuda has always been a function of Colonial Government and is exercised by custom officers on authority of Governor, who states he is unable to allow control to leave his hands. Colonial Office telegram No 12 of 4/1 only authorises Naval control in ships which are brought in or come in solely for contraband control. Suggest Admiralty confer with Colonial Office with a view to issuing instructions to all colonies where contraband control bases are or will be established. Following points should be made clear. Propose all communication from Imperial Government on these subjects to be sent through Admiralty to C. in C., America & West Indies at Bermuda or N.O.I/C at other ports. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1244/2 to Admty.)

Raider Report — Surface raider reported in position 033° 55' N., 030° 05' W., at 0320/1 (F.O.S. 1313/2 to TUNA)

CHRISTIAN HOLM SCANDIA — My 1825/7. Sparks reports CHRISTIAN HOLM and Scandia sailed either p.m./1st or today and that British Consul has kept you informed. Route as in your 1631/8 speed 7 to 8 knots. (D.T.D. 1830/2 to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Australia

SS SUVA — Your 1826/29/1. SUVA departed Noumea 2/2 due Vila 3/2. (A.C.N.B. 0754/2 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS

PORTLAND — PORTLAND which left Talcahuano at 0220Z/30 has 14 days fuel but this cannot be relied upon and ship may be proceeding Eastwards or Westwards. (C. in C., A.W.I., 1222/2 to Admty., etc.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS

SANDICHIARA Attacked ESTERINA ALBACHIARA GUISEPPE DORMIO — Split reports:- Master of Yugo-Slavian vessel reports having observed SANICHIARA (Sicilian) attacked off Petrovac afternoon 30/1 with 2 torpedoes but both missed. She is now at Bar (?Banare) C. 2.
Following are now at Dubrovnik loading:- ESTERINA, ALBACHIARA and GUISEPPE DORMIO, Collier motor schooner also there loading for San Giovanni. (S.O.(I) Alexandria 1143/2)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS

SONTAY, Escort. — Your 2105/31/1 and 2256/29/1. With concurrence of S.N.O. Free French have approved SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA escorting SONTAY from Durban to Simonstown. My 2131/31/1 suggest if not required for other duty she should escort to Freetown if desired to send ship there. (C. in C., S.A., 2037/2 to Admty.)

MENDOZA — My 2357/1. MENDOZA's cargo as follows (list) (C. in C., S.A., 2355/2, to Admty.)

Following passengers are air France staff recalled to France. Wish to proceed to Canada. (C. in C., S.A., 2359/2)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Ships Attacked

W.B.WALKER — Forepart of W.B.WALKER should be sunk. Make every endeavour to find and salve after part. (Admi. Devonport, 0029/2 to ASSURANCE)

Re my 2159/1 and 0029/2 W.B. WALKER broken in half in 055° 59' N., 015° 51' W., on 29/1. ST OLAVES and ASSURANCE searching for after-part which was reported salvable position of fore-part 055° 27' N., 016° 28' W., at 2159/1. (C. in C., W.A., 1047/2 to ANEMONE)

Have carried out widespread search in company with SAINT OLAVES including position given by G 22 for after part of W.B.WALKER without result my position 055° 20' N., 015° 20' W., 045° 4 knots. (ASSURANCE 2000/2 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

EMMAPLEIN — Air search under favourable weather conditions has failed to locate EMMAPLEIN which has probably sunk. Further search will be carried out 3/2. (A.C.O.S. 1817/2)

EMPIRE CITIZEN — Following has been read. 58 R 12 N 23 R 22W EMPIRE CITIZEN torpedoed by S/M. (Lyness 2359/2)
British, 4684 tons, a straggler from Convoy O.B. 279 (D.O.R. 3/2)

Submarines Reported

0900/29
1730/29 — Captain E.C. Marsden survivor ex UHLA reports whilst in boat 0900/29/1 approx. 054° 54' N., 019° 00' W., sighted two enemy submarines and at 1730 sighted another submarine heading west. (H.C.S.O. Oban 1510/2)

1339 — By D/F at 1339 B.S.T. Position of German Unit, possibly U/B was approx. 53° N., 20° W. Unreliable fix. (D.D.I.C., 1419/2)

/1512.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

2.2.1941.
Sunday

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN

Submarines Reported-Contd.

1512 — At 1512 by D.F. enemy submarine in 062° N 003° W. (F.O.S/M's 1646/2 to s/m's area A)

Estimated U-Boat Dispositions

German: 1 within 150 miles of 58° N., 20° W
possibly 1 within 60 miles of 55° 30' N., 21° W.
1 within 60 miles of 54° 30' N., 17° 30' W
1 within 60 miles of 53° 30' N., 21° 30' W
possibly 1 within 100 miles of 49° 30' N., 27° W.
1 South of Ireland homeward bound.
1 to N.E. of Azores.
No news from Cape Verde area

Italian: No news from Canaries area
1 in Bay of Biscay patrolling
1 about 46° N., 5° W., bound for Gironde
1 in N.W.Approaches whereabouts unknown.
(D.D.I.C., 1315/2)

U-Boat Dispositions. German one South of Ireland homeward bound Italian one in Bay of Biscay patrolling one in about 046° N., 005° W., bound Gironde. (F.O.S., 1534/2 to S/M's Area B.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Owing to the weather, A.P. vessels off Brightlingsea and Harwich sheltered in harbour tonight.

Very incomplete air reconnaissance today failed to locate the HIPPER class cruiser at Brest.

CRISPIN
Sunk

CRISPIN (Ocean boarding vessel- Special A.A.Vessel) was torpedoed and sunk tonight in the N.W. Approaches.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused patrols in the southern half of the North Sea to be curtailed today.

Seven Hampdens out of 12 despatched, succeeded last night in attacking the estimated position of the HIPPER class cruiser at Brest, and one of the seven aircraft also attacked Cherbourg. Projected operations by 105 other bombers were cancelled owing to bad weather on the Continent.

Enemy Air Activity

Steam trawler ARCTIC TRAPPER was bombed and sunk off Ramsgate this morning.

SS DIONE II a straggler from S.C. 20 was bombed in the N.W. Approaches this afternoon.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

3.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Enemy Mining

Hostile aircraft chased by our fighters dropped mines in the Thames Estuary this afternoon. A total of 28 enemy aircraft are suspected of minelaying in the Estuary this afternoon. Convoy F.S. 1 was machine gunned in the Thames Approaches this morning by an aircraft which dropped mines.

M/S trawler SOUTHERN CHIEF was damaged by the fifth mine which she detonated off Milford Haven today. M.A/S Boat 12 was also damaged by a mine in the area.

Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff and Barry were closed this evening and ships are not to sail from Swansea to the eastward. Aircraft minelaying between 1950 and 2200 hours is suspected.

SS CALYX (212 tons) was damaged by a mine off Liverpool today but reached port.

British Mining

One Hampden laid a mine off Lorient last night.

Operation E.A has been postponed for the present.

War Diary

3.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vichy French

Operation "Ration"

Admty. 1036/3 outlines the policy of H.M. Govt. towards French ships.

Mediterranean

Mining of Suez Canal

Further mines were dropped in the Suez Canal today. An unexploded mine was counter mined this morning and shipping started moving from Bitter Lake to Suez.
SS. DERWENT HALL was mined this afternoon and is obstructing shipping. It is hoped to get her alongside the bank so that traffic can proceed tomorrow.

Air Attack on Castel Benito

Last night, 7 Wellingtons from Malta dropped over 11½ tons of bombs on the aerodrome at Castel Benito (Tripoli), destroying at least 7 aircraft on the ground and damaging hangars.

East Indies

C. in C., E.I. 00582/3 making proposals regarding burning of navigation lights on the station.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Stornoway Sub-Command.

It has been decided to transfer Stornoway sub-command from the Orkneys and Shetlands command to the W.A. command, When the new commands described in 65 AZ 61 AK of 26/1 are brought into force.

2. The northern limit of the Western Approaches Command, and of the Stornoway sub-command, will be a line drawn from Cape Wrath to a position 180° 10 miles from Portland (Dyrholaey), Iceland, and thence to Cape Farewell, Greenland. This will be the southern limit of the Orkney and Shetland Command.

3. The Western Limit of the Western Approaches command will be the line drawn from Cape Farewell, Greenland to position 57° 45'N., 30° W and thence along the meridian of 30° W.

4. The Iceland sub-command will remain in the Orkney and Shetlands Command.

To Authorities at Home only.

5. It is hoped any small inconveniences that the above division entails will be accepted without further amendments being proposed.
(A.C.N.S. (H) 0030/3 "A" Mge.)

Warships entering Eire territorial waters.

If any ship flying White Ensign is likely to enter Eire territorial waters Admty. should if possible be informed in Advance.
(D.N.I. 2012/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. At 2330/2. (D.C. 0008/3).
At 1150/3. (D.C.1158/3).
At 2330/3. (D.C.2359/3).

Defence of Orkneys and Shetlands. 287. My 1615/31/1. (See Operations Volume). para.2 second sentence I consider I should be responsible for items (a) to (e) in para 2 of the annexe the two notes being deleted.
(A.C.O.S. 1150/3).

Movements.

FITZROY, WILD STAN, ANEMONE. Return to Londonderry.
(C.in C. W.A. 0035/3).

MINNIE DE LARRINAGA. Sailing MINNIE DE LARRINAGA postponed, further 24 hours owing unsuitable weather.
(C.in C. Nore 0932/3).

BROADWATER. On completion of oiling anchor in Mumbles Bay until further orders.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 0958/3).

PHOEBE EDINBURGH. C.in C. H.F. 1041/3. See Operations Volume.

Patrols Sheltering. Patrols proceeding to alternative positions for shelter.
(N.O.I.C. Brighlingsea 1105/3).

Trawler lines tonight. 4 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1551/3).

Patrols Sheltering. All Patrol sheltering in harbour for night.
(N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea 1650/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

All A/P vessels sheltering in harbour owing weather conditions.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1943/3).

Operations.

Attack on certain German M/V's.

Asking whether URGE can be used.
(F.O.S. 1533/3 to A.C.O.S.) See Operations Volume.

Submarines.

TUNA.

Tuna proceeding to Azores, position 0800/3 044° 06'N., 016° 44'W.
(C.in C. W.A. 1103/3 to LEITH, ROCHESTER).

SNAPPER
TRIBUNE.

SNAPPER to remain in North Zone eastern sector from 1200/5 to 1200/8. TRIBUNE report if she will not be North of 047° 48' by 0800/8.
(Capt: (S) 2 1128/3).

TRIBUNE,
MOQUEUSE
TIGRIS.

TRIBUNE to leave patrol 6/2 (route) R/V with L.A. MOQUEUSE (position) 0815/9. Lights T.B.R. Position of TIGRIS.
(Capt: (S) 2 1129/3).

Positions.

At 0800/4.
(F.O.S. 1617/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols. Additional Patrols being flown today. S.A.l.A. S.A.2. both a.m. A/S patrols of Minches 0900 to 1745. (C.in C. Rosyth 0920/3).

S.B.R. T.B.R. Request submerged bombing restrictions 30 miles either side of a line from 059° N., 023° W. through 049° N., 011° W. to 056° 47' N., 007° 57' W. from 0900/5 to 1930/8 and total bombing restrictions within 20 miles of 056° 47' N., 007° 57' W. from 0001/9 to 1400/9. (Capt:(S) 2 1007/3).

Brest. Available aircraft No.53 and 217 Squadrons attack tonight 3rd/4th Feb. cruiser in dry dock at Brest. Bombs 500 lb. S.A.P. (H.Q.C.C. 1225/3, 1250/3).

British aircraft fired on at Lowestoft. Your 0014/26. N.O.I.C. Lowestoft now reports spotters say Wellington A/C was flying S.E. 800 feet with undercarriage up and fire ceased from ships upon firing of recognition signals. (C.in C. Nore 1300/3).

Standing Patrols. Add Patrol Bailey (details) to my 0002/1/1. (C.in C. Rosyth 2240/3. See Summaries folder.

S.S. LANRICK. Aircraft reports one merchant ship in position Z.C.M.Q. 1241 at 1020 course 310 degrees. Identify this ship. (A.C.O.S. 1315/3 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Your 1315/3. Ship identified S.S. LANRICK (N.O.I.C. Faroes 1748/3).

Enemy Air Activity.

BARON RENFREW. (Bombed 28/1).

Tugs ASSURANCE and ST. CLAVES and SHEMARA H are to be recalled, diverting one to assist TENACITY with BARON RENFREW if necessary.
(C.in C. W.A. 0037/3 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Return to Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0107/3 to ASSURANCE SHEMARA).

Connected with BARON RENFREW at 1400 in 055° 02'N., 011° 34'W. proceeding at approx. 5 knots.
Men off TENACITY with 6 volunteers off CANDYTUFT on board BARON RENFREW.
Chief Officer TENACITY reports unexploded bomb on board otherwise little damaged.
(TENACITY 1530/3).

My 0111/3. TENACITY towing BARON RENFREW in position 055° 02'N., 011° 34'W making 5 knots at 1400/today. CANDYTUFT in company.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2022/3 to ST. OLAVES.)

OLYMPIER Survivors.

My 1447/2. Keep good look-out for this life-boat.
(C.in C. W.A. 0931/3 to ANEMONE SHEMARA CANDYTUFT).

GRELROSA.

Arrived VOLUNTEER with 31 survivors from GRELROSA.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0940/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

OLYMPIER
BARON
RENFREW.

Arrived rescue ship TOWARD with 20 survivors from OLYMPIER and 12 from BARON RENFREW.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1044/3).

ARCTIC
TRAPPER
(Steam
Trawler)
Sunk.

ARCTIC TRAPPER sunk by bomb in approx. position 090° 3 miles from Ramsgate Pier Head. Fear no survivors.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1000/3).

ARCTIC TRAPPER attacked by plane with under-carriage, which dropped one bomb scoring direct hit amidships. Ship sank in 2 minutes, 3 survivors. Topmasts showing at low water 3½ miles 090° from Ramsgate Pier Head.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1250/3).

WAZIRISTAN
(Bombed
2/2).

WAZIRISTAN in position 061° 04'N., 012° 09' W. Weather calm. HAVELOCK parting company.
(HAVELOCK 1101/3).

Sunderland aircraft being sent to direct tug and act as A/S escort over ship 0930, E.T.A.
(C.in C.Rosyth 0242/3 to HAVELOCK).

My 0242/3. Aircraft delayed by weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0546/3 to HAVELOCK).

HAVELOCK's 1101/3. BANDIT cannot arrive in position till 2200/3 at earliest. Consider destroyer will be necessary to protect BANDIT and WAZIRISTAN and assist in making contact.
(A.C.C.S. 1241/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Detail one corvette to escort WAZARISTAN reported in position 061° 04'N., 012° 09' W. at 1101/3 presumably stopped. BANDIT should meet about midnight tonight. (C.in C. W.A. 1603/3 to ARROW).

Your 1241/3. As HAVELOCK is required for Convoy O.B.A. ARROW is being ordered to detach one Corvette to escort WAZARISTAN. (C.in C. W.A. 1607/3 to A.C.O.S.)

Your 1603. Do not anticipate meeting WAZARISTAN until 0900/4. (BANDIT 1900/3 to C.in C. W.A.)

Cancel my 1605 DOUGLAS is being sent to escort WAZIRISTAN Corvette detached is to rejoin convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1939/3 to ARROW).

OCZA WAZIRISTAN damaged by enemy aircraft and stopped in position 061 04'N., 012 09'W. at 1100/3.

Fleet tug BANDIT proceeding to assistance. Position at noon/3 059° 24'N., 006° 55' 56' W. Course 316° 7.5 knots. Proceed give protection to WAZIRISTAN and BANDIT. (C.in C. H.F. 2108/3 to DOUGLAS).

Correct my 2108 for WAZIRISTAN read WAZIRISTAN. Word before course. 006° 56'W. (C.in C. H.F. 2221/3 to DOUGLAS).

1 (one) Sunderland will patrol near WAZIRISTAN from daylight 4th until about 1600/4. (C.in C. Rosyth 2256/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Your 2102/3. Am proceeding. E.T.A. 1800/4.
(DOUGLAS 2352/3 to C.in C. H.F.)

Am standing by disabled WAZIRISTAN until tugs arrive.
(LORD MIDDLETON 2357/3).

Ramsgate bombed.

At 0905 today single enemy aircraft dropped salvo of 4 H.E. bombs on Ramsgate. Damage. (No naval casualties.)
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1150/3).

DIONE II (2660 tons bombed).

DE DIONE SECOND 55.40 N, 14.23 W. bombed.
(Valentia Radio 1538/3 Port Patrick 1542/3, F.O.I.C. Belfast 1545/3).

Cancel my 0107/3 proceed forthwith to assist S.S. DIONE in 55° 40'N., 14° 23'W at 1648/today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1718/3 to ASSURANCE.)

R.C. A/C over Firth of Forth.

Your 1547/30, and Admty. 1622/2. Request approx. heights of aircraft reported may be stated. Technicians at Fighter Command now examining your report.
(D. of L.D. 2050/3 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Mining.

Aircraft Mining in Thames Approaches.

One enemy aircraft machine gunned convoy laid parachute mine in porition 051 47'N10 001 28' 42" E at second mine broke adrift from parachute and probably dropped approx. one mile N.W. of this position.
(WOOLSTON 0928/3).

MOST SECRET.

5.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Following has been read. LAP 321.
One enemy aircraft bearing 321° from EREBUS and EGLINTON in position 51° 45'N., 10.26'E.
(EREBUS 1333/3).

Mines dropped 012 B.6 buoy 2 miles at 1345.
(EREBUS 1352/3).

My 1352. Mines were dropped by Hostile Aircraft being chased by fighters.
(EREBUS 1404/3).

M/S 6 reports parachute mine dropped position 234 B.3 1.4 miles.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 0936/3).

Milford Haven, SOUTHERN CHIEF, damaged.

Cancel my 1810/2. Trawler fitted with S.A.gear detonated 5 mines this morning the last one putting her out of action. Approach Channel not yet been cleared.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1108/3).
Details of mines.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 17253).

My 1108/3. Trawler SOUTHERN CHIEF will be out of action for probably four days.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1751/3).

Western Approaches.

Owing to presence of shallow mines in Admty Mge. QZY 174 motor launches and motor gunboats are only entering this area for rescue work or if specially ordered.
(C.in C. W.A. 1217/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Harwich. — Ground mine exploded 900 yds. astern of L.L.Drifter pulsing 51° 55'N., 1° 21.7E. Two destroyers half mile distant. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1253/3).

Sweeping Programme. — Request Fighter protection. For HARRIER and GOSSAMER. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1253/3 to C.in C. Nore).

Operation S.N.7. — My 1027/2. NIGERIA is to R/V with R.A.M.L. at 1000/5 in position 059° 39' N., 007° 34'W. (C.in C. H.F. 1334/3 to R.A.M.L. NIGERIA(.

Operation E.A. — Not now possible for mines to be laid during dark period, if Force is to be well clear of coast by daylight. Intend to postpone operation for the present and sail INTREPID and IMPULSIVE for Immingham. (C.in C. H.F. 1426/3).

Operation S.N.68. — Proposals. (R.A.M.L. 1428/3) See Operations Volume.

M A/S B.12 damaged. — Motor A/S boat 12 damaged by mine, extent of damage unknown at present, vessel is still afloat. (N.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1544/3).

ALMOND (sunk 2/2). Milford Haven. — List of Survivors. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1546/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation B.S.50.	Expect A/S escort 1 Hudson during daylight hours also fighter escort 2 Blenheims from daylight to 1500 tomorrow Tuesday. (C.in C. Rosyth 1946/3 to TEVIOT BANK, MEYNELL).
Bristol Channel.	Owing to suspected mine laying no ships are to leave Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff or Barry and no ships are to sail from Swansea to eastwards. Incoming traffic is to anchor westward of Breaksea. Ships are not to enter Barry Roads. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 2116/3).

Enemy Intelligence.

HIPPER cruiser at Brest.	Very incomplete R.C. of Brest today failed to locate HIPPER Class cruiser. (D.D.I.C. 2155/3 to C.in C. H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

F.N.99. VORTIGERN sails as escort to F.N.99 at 0900/3.
(C.in C. Nore 0002/3).

F.S.2. 12 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0937/3).

E.N.66. (a) 0730/3. (b) H.M.T.'s STELLA, CAPELLA, ST. APOLLO extra escort H.M.T. CELIA additional escort JASON. (c) 34 ships, 20 with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 0939/3).

9 M/V's. Request fighter protection.
(a) as in my 2141/2. (b) 1530/3 to dusk and daylight 4th to dusk. (c) Cover (d) as in my 2141/2.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 0957/3 to H.Q.C.C. H.Q.F.C. etc.)

F.N.99. Postponed 24 hours, weather.
(C.in C. Nore 1010/3).

F.N.66. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Methil,1028/3).

W.N.79. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 1037/3).

F.N.96. Tyne ships arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 1041/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 5.6.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.78. Arrived 1030/3.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1058/3).

E.N.65. Loch Ewe section arrived 1050/3.
6 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1102/3).

O.B.280. To keep clear of possible U/Boat in 056° 00'N., 021° 00'W. O.B.280 steer direct for 056° 10' 025° 00'.
(C.in C. W.A. 1115/3 to HARVESTER for Cdre. PHILANTE,ARBUTUS, ERICA,CAMELIA)

O.B.A. Disperse in 026° 00'W., (C.in C. W.A. 1123/3 to HAVELOCK for Cdre, HESPERUS).

O.B.281. Loch Ewe section 1120/3. Eight ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1131/3).

F.S.S. My 1308/1/3 SNAPDRAGON will form additional escort for F.S.S. from the Outer Dowsing.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1140/3).

E.N.67.
W.N.80. Act as additional A/A escort to E.N. 67 sailing at 2130/4. On meeting transfer to W.N.80 due Cape Wrath 0500/6 and Duncansby 1530/6. Code word for E.N.67 USAGE and for W.N.80 MUTUAL.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1215/3 to FOWEY).

O.G.M.52. 1730/4 DERBY COUNTY, three.
(N.C.S.O. Milford Haven 1220/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Western Channel night report.
9 Merchant Vessels A/S Trawlers LORD BEAUDSN and CORALIAN Falmouth to Dartmouth E.T.A. o'30. On Tanker A/S Trawler RUBY, Holyhead to Dartmouth E.T.A. 0900. 9 Merchant Vessels A/S Trawlers KINGSTON ANDALUSITE and VICTRIX Dartmouth to Hartland, leave 1630 etc. 7 M/V's, unescorted, various destinations.
(C.in C. W.A. 1335/3).

Code Words.

A.F.O. 82/41. Add to list on convoys Loch Ewe portions of HX, OB and WN Convoys. Code words SURVEY, REASON, OFFICE and call signs MHA, MHG, MHP respectively. These portions of above convoys and EN convoys will be known by the convoy letters followed by U e.g. WNU Convoy.
(D.S.D. 1351/3 "A" Message Home).

O.B.279. incorrect routeing.

Study of routes given to ships OB.279 after dispersal shows following ships were not routed in accordance with A.M.2235/12/40. ALHENA and EMPIRE CITIZEN routed by Liverpool, HOPECRANOE routed by Oban and STANMORE routed by Belfast. As a result of this careless routeing a valuable ship has been torpedoed. Written report is to be rendered by N.C.S.O's Liverpool, Belfast and Oban as to why A.M.2235/19/12/40 was not complied with.
(D.T.D. 1405/3).

F.N.99.
F.N.100.

Intend to sail F.N.100 (fast) escorts VANITY and VORTIGERN at 0900/4 immediately followed by F.N.99 (slow) escorts HOLDERNESS and WOOLSTON. If weather too bad for slow ships in ballast to sail tomorrow intend to cancel F.N.99 and order HOLDERNESS and WOOLSTON to return to Rosyth with F.N.100.
(C.in C. Nore, 1430/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.O.282.	0830/4/2. Escort AYRSHIRE. One ship S.S. SURAT. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1603/3).
	Sailed 1625/3. 7 ships 9 knots, 3 ships with kites. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1640/3).
W.N.79 (O)	Sailed 1430/3. Escort H.M.T. NOTTS COUNTY, 8 ships (3 kites). (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1301/3).
F.S.1.	Arrived all ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1309/3).
O.B.282.	Escort for O.B.282. HEATHER from Liverpool GEORGETOWN ANTELOPE ANTHONY ACHATES PICOTTEE SNOWDROP LADY MADELINE from Clyde and AYRSHIRE from Oban. (Capt: D., Greenock 1914/3 to C.in C. W.A.)
E.N.66.	E.T.A. Duncansby Head 0730/4 speed of advance 7.5 knots. (STELLA CAPELLA, 2000/3).
8 M/Vs.	Intend sailing at 1700/4 8 merchant vessels including one large tanker via St. Catherines E.T.A. Nab 0830/5 escorting A/S trawler ST. CATHAN and CAPE COMORIN. (N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2004/3).
F.S.3.	Sailed 2300/3. 30 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2322/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

BHX.108.	BHX.108. List and destinations. (Navy Control, Bermuda, 1801/3).
HX.107.	Sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax, 1451/3).
H.X.102.	Delayed by heavy weather and large alteration in route. URLA straggler sunk by torpedo, remaining ships now arrived. (D.T.D. 1646/3 to N.S.H.q. Ottawa). (959).
S.L.63.	Extract from sailing telegram as amended by Admiralty (D.T.D. 1835/3). Latest Q.Z.S. received before sailing No.203. Ends. (D.T.D. (723) 1835/3).
HX.104.	Sunderland will make landfall at daylight at Faroes then proceed to escort HX.104 until 1400. Provided aircraft locates convoy a second Sorties will be sent to reach convoy as soon after 1500 as possible and escort till dark. (C.in C. Rosyth 2204/3 to CHURCHILL, ARROW HOLLYHOCK AUBRETIA.
HX.105.	Expect A/S Air escort throughout daylight 4th first 2 sorties by 37 Hudson aircraft third sortie by Whitley aircraft. (C.in C. Rosyth 2246/3 to WITCH MONTGOMERY WILD SWAN CAMPANULA PIMPERNEL PERIWINKLE).
HX.105.	Meet. (List) (C.in C. S.A. 2257/3 to WITCH CAMPANULA, MONTGOMERY PIMPERNEL WILD SWAN PERIWINKLE

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Military Convoys, W.S.6.

CITY OF MARSEILLES, sailing date (D.S.T.O, Liverpool 0940/3.) See Operations Volume. Re escort. (C. in C. H.F. 1117/3, 1502/3, 1341/3.) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

FAME. My 1744/1. Sailing postponed on account of weather. SHELDRAKE at Sunderland. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0937/3.)

H.M.T.
HELIER II. H.M.T. HELIER II on proceeding to sea today collided with L.M.S. Wharf, Larne Harbour, damage was done to wharf. (N.O.I.C. Larne 1500/3.)

S.S.KIBERGEN. P.S.93. S.O.(I) Rosyth reports Yr.1736/2. KIBERGEN ran ashore off Sunderland. She is now in Sunderland Harbour. T.O.R. 2035/2. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1520/3)

A/P Drifter
MIDAS sunk. Regret to report loss of MIDAS as result of collision at 0530/today with drifter GIRL GLADYS, who was patrolling in company in Dungeness East Roads. Dungeness S.S. reported sighting MIDAS still afloat at daylight but search of area has been unsuccessful. Crew taken off without casualty. (V.A. Dover 1637/3.)

S.S.VANCOUVER. Damaged in Loch Long requires immediate assistance. (TORBAY 1800/3.)

S.S.HEIRK. Arrival 1750. Rescue Tug CAROLINE MOLLER towing S.S.HEIRK.(F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1820/3.

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Operation "Ration".

Your No. 1/3 of 1/1. Policy of H.M.G. re violation of territorial waters and use of force. (Hd. of M., 1036/3, to F.O.C. Force H.) See Operations Volume.

RESOLUTION.

My 1919/27 and F.O.C. N.A's 1758/30. RESOLUTION will be refitted at Portsmouth. F.O.C. N.A, requested to sail her for that port, passing South of Ireland. (Route.) (D.O.D.(H) 1206/3, to F.O.C.N.A., C. in C. W.A.) My 1205/3. Code Word "Parts". (D.O.D. (H) 1231/3.)

Azores Patrol, OTUS, TUNA.

Position of S/M's at 0800/4 and movements for 24 hours. OTUS on patrol off Ponta Delgada. TUNA 041° 00' N. 020° 00' W., proceeding on surface to relieve OTUS speed ten knots. (F.O.C.N.A. 1312/3.)

Information. American EXCALIBUR left Lisbon 31/1 Bermuda. American ANDREW JACKSON left Santander 31/1 for Baltimore. TUNA from U.K. is proceeding East San Miguel, to relieve you arriving on patrol A.M./6. (Capt. S.8, 1316/3, to OTUS.)

Spain.

Liaison delegation for Gibraltar (D.N.I. 1622/3 to N.A. Madrid.)

Air Report.

Daily Summary Operations. Flying curtailed owing to weather. (200 Group, 1700/3.)

/ST. LINDSAY.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

ST. LINDSAY, Raider report.

20 miles South St. Michaels Azores ST. LINDSAY attacked by raider. (ST. LINDSAY, 2335/3.)

Cancel my RRR 2335/3. (ST. LINDSAY. 0103/4.) ST. LINDSAY, British, 5370 tons, was ex-Convoy O.B.235. (D.O.R. 4/2.)

South Atlantic.

French Brigade.

F.O.C.N.A. 1334/2. Proposal in my 2153/31 no longer possible. Free French suggestion for alternative ships. (C. in C. S.A., 0145/3, to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

NORFOLK. DEVONSHIRE. DORSETSHIRE.

Arrivals 0700/3, F.O.C. 1st. C.S. in NORFOLK with DEVONSHIRE; 0730, DORSETSHIRE. (S.O.I.Freetown, 0925N/3, to Admty.)

COMMANDANT DOMINE, COMMANDANT DUBOC.

My 1336/30. COMMANDANT DOMINE should if ready accompany COMMANDANT DUBOC. (D.O.D.(F) 1101/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

POLYDORUS LISBETH. TUNISIA MADURA.

Overdue shipping. Following not arrived. Dutch ship POLYDORUS, Oban 14/1, due Freetown 28/1, Norwegian Ship LISBETH, Milford Haven, 8/1 due Freetown 29/1, British Ships TUNISIA, Milford Haven 8/1, due 29/1, MADURA, Mersey, 12/1 due Freetown 30/1. (Dummy) (S.O.I. Freetown, 1118/3, to Admty.)

/Flying.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Flying Boats.

Re 3 Sunderlands leaving U.K. Freetown via Gibraltar and Bathurst when weather suitable.(26 (Signals) Group, 1156/3. to Cdr., Sierra Leone Area, Bathurst.)

Force Z.

My 1131/30. Cancel route from rendezvous Q, and substitute E.T.A. Freetown. (C. in C.S.A., 1255N/3, to KENYA, Force Z.)

My 1255/3. Leave Freetown at 1800/3with NORFOLK, DEVONSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE, and proceed in general direction of Force Z so as to rendezvous in position 024° 55' N, 019° 45' W, about 0800N/7, Force Z expected to reach rendezvous Q. at 1700 B.S.T./5. (C. in C. S.A.,1259N/3 to 1st. C.S.)

Departure 1930/3 F.O.C. 1st. C.S. in NORFOLK with DEVONSHIRE and DORSETSHIRE in accordance with C. in C. S.A.'s 1259/3.(S.O.I. Freetown, 2155N/3.)

AFRICA MARU.

In addition to details referred to in your 1030/2, request S.O.(I) Capetown may report names of consignors and consignees and weights. Detain ships pending further instructions. (D.E.W.D. 1415/3 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.

My 1240/1 and N.O.I.C. Simonstown 1030/2. Ship was detained by Union Government on own initiative because of the following cargoes. (S.O.I., Capetown, 1543/3 to Admty.)

ADMIRAL SCHEER MOEWE.

Source of my 1711/18, states he saw decode of a telegram from Rio De Janeiro on table of German Consul this morning informing him that German ships ADMIRAL SCHEER and MOEWE are in this neighbourhood (E.O.) (Consul, Bahia, 1624/3, to Admty.)

/AFRIC STAR.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

AFRIC STAR. — Overdue shipping. British AFRIC STAR Montevideo departure 18/1, due St. Vincent 31/1 has not arrived. (S.O.1. Freetown, 1641/3, to Admty.)

CORNWALL. — Your 1653/12. Intended that CORNWALL should continue to be administered by you, but at present necessary for her to be operated by C. in C. E.I, in order to provide troop convoy escort on his station.(D.O.D. (F) 1647/3, to C. in C.S.A.

AFRICA MARU. — As log was not taken ashore and photographed whilst under examination, consider preferable not to take any action which may arouse suspicion and possibly hinder us from obtaining further operational intelligence. (C. in C. S.A., 1715/3, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

EMPIRE TROOPER W.S.6. FORT SIBMER. — C. in C. S.A.'s 2153/31. F.O.C. N.A. requested to advise as to earliest possible arrival date of EMPIRE TROOPER at Lagos. As W.S.6. will not now arrive Freetown until (date) and will remain five days for watering etc.C. in C.S.A. is requested to advise whether date to be notified by F.O.C. N.A. is acceptable. C. in C. S.A. also requested to advise as to (a) proposed date of sailing of FORT SIBMER, and (b) what ships will be used for the local French moves. D. of S.T. 1752/3 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.)

R.A.F. Freetown. — Re: headquarters, developements and liaison. (C.O.C., W.Africa, to W.O., 1905/3.) (D. of S.T. 1752/3 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A.)

Bunkers, Freetown. S.L.S.68. — Your 2027/31/1. Collier TUNISIA not yet arrived. Delays in bunkering anticipated unless improvement in situation before 10/2. Intend to sail 4 ships of SLS 68? to St. Vincent for fuel sailing from there to join up with their convoy. (C. in C. S.A., 2359M/3, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Castel Benito bombed.

X 7991. Special Operational Summary. 7 Wellingtons 148 Sqdn., attacked Castel Benito Aerodrome night Feb. 2/3. At 1935 possible warship position 3318' N. 13 18 E. course South towards Tripoli. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 0720/3.)

Suez Canal D.W.I. Sweep. HUNTLEY sunk.

X.8006. Summary 238 up to 1200 hours 3/2.Feb. 2nd. Three sweeps by D.W.I. Wellingtons exploded one mine in Suez Canal between Kabrit and El Ghatt. Night 1/2 Feb. two enemy aircraft believed Heinkel III sank minesweeper HUNTLEY, with torpedoes and bombs off Ostrah, 7 officers and 51 sailors saved. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E., 1233/3.)

Landingcraft and Personnel.

Your 1618/24. Following craft are to be sent by freight to M.E. in addition to those carried in the three Glen ships and two Belgian carriers.Total personnel to be sent to the Middle East. Distribution of craft in M.E.(Head of M, 1236/3 to C. in C. Med.)

Bombardment of Land Targets.

Asking for a summary of experience gained with air and F.O.O. observation during ship bombardments of land targets, and any recommendations for improvement.(D.T.S.D.1534/3, to C. in C. Med.)

Malta Air Raid.

(H.Q.R.A.F., Malta, 1700/3.)

URSUS sunk.

Italian tug, sunk by 2/m, 31/1,(Consul, Split, 1840/3.) See Italian Merchant Ships.

/DERWENT.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

DERWENT HALL, Suez Canal Mined.

My 1092. Unexploded mine was counter-mined A.M.today. Shipping started moving from Bitter Lake to Suez. 8th ship in line, DERWENT HALL, was mined at 1605B, at Kilometres 135.8 Rudder blown off, after peak flooded, one minor casualty. Bow is embedded in East Bank, stern half way across Canal obstructing passage of shipping. Expect to get ship alongside bank thus enabling traffic to proceed tomorrow 4/2, and later in day towing DERWENT HALL to Suez.
(S.O.N.O. Suez Canal, 1939/3.)

East Indies

Navigation Lights.

My 1522/9/1, A.M. 1854/17/1., and C. in C. S.A. 1103/20/1. 1. Consider that the only part of East Indies portion of Area Six B. in which it is desirable for Merchant Ships to burn dimmed Navigation Lights is North of 20°S and West of 47° E, and that ships routed through areas Six B and Five A between South Africa and Australia should be fully darkened notwithstanding instructions laid down in A M S I. 2. Intend also that dimmed Navigation Lights should be burned in Gulf of Aden West of 55° provided they are extinguished before making landfall at Perim.
(C. in C. E.I., 06582/3, to Admty.)

CHRISTIAN HUYGENS.

D. of S.T. 1808/30, and S.S.T.O.Egypt 1919/30. S.N.O. Red Sea Force is requested to sail CHRISTIAN HUYGENS from Aden for Mombasa on 12/2 escorted by HECTOR. HECTOR is subsequently to escort CHRISTIAN from Mombasa to Durban.
(C. in C. E.I., 0602/3, to S.N.O. Red Sea.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Operation "Canvas."

My 0650/Force T, (SHROPSHIRE and HERMES) will sail from Durban for Mombasa a.m./4, or a.m./5, at S.O.'s discretion depending on return of SHROPSHIRE ratings from hospital after epidemic and will take part in operation "CANVAS". SHROPSHIRE does not expect to leave more than 40 ratings behind. (C. in C.E.I.,1016Z/3, to Admty.)

BANKURA
BAMORA
BARPETA
SUISANG.

My 0532/2, and C. in C. Med.'s 0401/2. (No trace in W.R.)Four ships required in Mediterranean immediately. Unless there is special reason to the contrary, BANKURA BAMORA BARPETA, are selected and should be sailed for Aden as soon as possible.(SUISANG). Request you will report (SUISANG) expected date of arrival at Aden & Earmark two further ships which may be required later. (C. in C.E.I., 1028Z/3, to S.S.T.O, India, N.O.I.C. Calcutta.)

NANA MARU.

Your 1030/2, (C. in C.E.I, 1134Z/3, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown),from information received from A.C.N.B. Melbourne ship J.G.J.M. is NANA MARU. (Radio traffic between J.G.J.M,AFRICA MARU, and Nauen W/T.)(C.in C.E.I 1134Z/3 to NOIC Simonstown).

KANIMBLA.

My 1152/27, KANIMBLA is to leave patrol and proceed Durban so as to arrive a.m. /5. (C. in C.E.I., 1242/3, to KANIMBLA.)

/CAPETOWN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 3. 2. 41. Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

CAPETOWN. CAPETOWN is to leave Seychelles before dark 4/2, and proceed to Mombasa so as to arrive a.m./8. (C. in C. E.I., 1255Z/3. to CAPETOWN.)

Minesweepers. Your 0717/31. Request M/S group 100 be sailed from Durban to Mombasa calling at Dar-Es-Salaam, where oiler APPLELEAF, will be sent to top up with Fuel and water. (C. in C. E.I., 1258Z/3. to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Force T. HERMES and SHROPSHIRE are to form Force T. (C. in C.E.I., 1510/3, to E.I. Station.)

HAWKINS. EMERALD. Admty 0300/22. and C. in C. E.A. 2163/2 Proposals for HAWKINS and EMERALD, re Operation "Canvas" and escort of W.S.5.B. (C. in C. E.I., 1440Z/3 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

KARAOOLA. Your 1933/2, (As to cancellation of distress signal) Re KARAOOLA distress signal, yes. See My 1326/2/2. (C. in C. E.I. 18322/3 to Admty.)

B.N.14. CALEDON and KINGSTON. E.T.A. 0400Z/4. B.N. 14 ships arrive 0230Z/5. (CALEDON, 1726Z/3, to N.O.I.C. Port Sudan.)

Pilotage of Red Sea Force 1714Z. I rely on you to do this. Report at 0300Z/4, if not done. (CALEDON, 1545Z/3, to SHERMAN.)

/E.S.F.I.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

DOMINION STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

B.S.F.I. S.N.O. Red Sea 1714Z/3. Am not in touch. Am endeavouring to overtake but must return at 0400Z to R/V with B.S.F. HORSE LADY routed 12 miles to Port Standard. (SHORNIAN, 1905/3, to CALEDON.)

My 1923/30. DOMINION MONARCH did not sail with B.S.F.1. (S.S.T.O. Egypt, 1735/3, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Inter-Iceland Air Service.	Netherland authorities considering establishment of a direct air service between Trinidad Curacao and Jamaica and request information whether this would be welcomed and necessary facilities given K.L.M. to use air port at Kingston. (Jamaica). (S.N.O. Curacao 1226/3 to C.in C. A.W.I.)
U.S.Navy request further information of ship movements.	Your No.1114/31.* Navy Department informs me that no instructions have been issued to N.A. (?) at Curacao other than to obtain information of movements of ships in Venezuela ports from ordinary public sources. Department is communicating with N.A. who is not accredited to Curacao. * (Requesting instructions given to U.S. Naval Attache Curacoa). (N.A. Washington 1239/3 to C.in C. A.W.I.)
Danish T.B's reported taken over by Germans.	Navy Department report Germans have demanded 12 torpedo boats of Danes. Danes have agreed to transfer eight under protest and less Armament. Delivery held up by ice. (N.A. Washington 1715/3).
MONOWAI AORANGI.	Departure Suva MONOWAI escorting AORANGI 0945Z/2. (S.O.(I) Wellington 0215Z/3).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

3.2.1941.
Monday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ATLAS.	Arrived 2/2. (Valencia, T.H.I. 2015/3).
Ships at Oslo.	B.S. report of arrivals at Oslo from Germany 31/12 to 22/1. (D.S.518.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

ALSINA.

My 1711/1 from private telegrams received Rio de Janeiro from passengers on board, ALSINA left Marseilles 15/1, Dakar 25/1 and is expected Rio de Janeiro or Santos 3/2 or 4/2. She is full of Jews. From secret source. (A.1) The idea of sailing any further French ships from Buenos Aires has been abandoned for the present. (N.A.Rio de Janeiro, 1247/3, to D.N.I., etc.)

SONTAY
escort.

Your 2037/2, On completion of the escort duties referred to in your 2131/31, SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA is to be sailed for Suez. (D.O.D. (F) 1644/3, to C. in C.S.A.)

JEAN L.D.
SONTAY.

Admiralty 2256/29, and 2047/31, JEAN L.D. and SONTAY are still at Capetown and Durban respectively under Union Armed Guard. The High Commissioner is pressing the Union Govt., to issue immediately emergency regulations authorising requisition of any foreign ships. Thus objections to my re-assuming control of these ships. Request approval to be guided by recommendations of High Commissioner. (F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 1810/3 to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BURMA. 4075 tons (forced ashore at Puesto Santa Maria, North of Cadiz, during gale on night of 20-21/1.) Master reported to his owners on 27/1 that hull was split and a crack had appeared in Starboard Deck, feared he would have to abandon ship. (D.S. 517, 3/2.)

GIRMA. 1542 tons, which took refuge at Palma, Majorca, on 11/6/40, is reported to have sailed for unknown destination, probably Genoa, on night of 30-31/1. (D.S.5186/2.)

UNSUS sunk by H/M. Italian Tug UNSUS towing floating battery attacked by unidentified submarine 1230/31, off Koroula outside Yugoslav territorial waters. Tug sunk and battery towed by Yugo Slav Merchant Vessel into Hvar, whence 24 hours later she was removed after Italian Tug arrived from Lagosta. Enemy casualties about 35 of which 9 dead buried at Hvar, and 20 wounded landed at Hvar and Korcula. 6 missing. (Consul, Split, 1340/3, to Admty.)

ISARCO. Susak arrival 2/2, ISARCO Trieste cargo unknown. (Susak, T.B.I.2000/3.)

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships attacked.
EMPIRE CITIZEN.
(torpedoed.)
S/S.

British, 4683 tons. Detach one ship to EMPIRE CITIZEN torpedoed in position 059° 13' North 023° 22' West at 0100/3. (C. in C. W.A., 0123/3, to LINCOLN.)

H.M.S.
CRISPIN.

(Ocean Boarding Vessel), 5552 N 2022 W, torpedoed 2239/3. (Valentia Radio, 2150/3

Following has been read. From CRISPIN, S/M Distress.
56 54 N.
20 22 W.
Torpedoed.
(Scapa Base, 2239/3).
(Ship).

Following has been read. From CRISPIN.
56. 52 N. (? 54 N.) 20 22 W.
Sinking require immediate assistance.
(Scapa Base Ship. 2324/3.)
56, 52 N. 20 22 W. Abandoning ship.
(Plymouth, 2343/3.)

Following message read by Detling R.A.F. A/F D/F Station at 2251 B.S.T.:- H S S S (CRISPIN) 56.52 N 20. 22 W torpedoed.
(C. in C. Nore, 2329/3.)

H.M.S. CRISPIN torpedoed and sinking after having left OB 280 with MILANTE, ARBUTUS, and COPELAND. 8 miles from convoy when hit MILANTE returning to convoy. Am searching with CAMELLIA and ERICA. (HARVESTER, 2350/3.)

S/M's
Reported.

0046.

By D/F at 0046 Italian U Boat 045° 30' N. 003° W. (F.O.(S). 0902/3, to S/M's on Patrol Area B.)

/1921. By D/F.....

MOST SECRET.

3. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

U BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1581. By D/F at 1621 B.S.T. Italian U. Boat in position 53° 30' N. 19° 00' W. radius 25 miles. (D.D.I.C. 1602/3)

1045/29. Following from Navy Department: U.S. Destroyer RIDDLE sighted periscope 1045/29, 8° 23' N. 76° 13' W. U.S. warships and planes searching. (U.A. Washington, 1709/3, to Admty.)

An enemy submarine has made a first sighting report of a large formation. (D.D.I.C./1909/3.)

My 1909/3, it is probable that formation reported was O.B.280 convoy or FURIOUS. (D.D.I.C. 1927/3.)

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.

1 N.W. of Faroes outward bound.
1 in 52° 12' N. 23° 22' W. at 0001/3.
1 about 58° 30' N. 17° 30' W. at 0356/3.
1 about 53° 20' N. 21° 30' W. at 1736/2.
1 within 90 miles of 55° 30' N. 17°30' W.
1 within 100 miles of 60° N. 27° W.
1 arriving Lorient tonight.

Italian.

1 to N.W. of Azores. 1 arriving Gironde today. No news of others which may be at sea. (D.D.I.C. 1413/3.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

HIPPER Cruiser from Brest

From photographs, it is believed that the HIPPER class cruiser is not in Brest. Reconnaissance shows that the ship is not in Bordeaux, La Rochelle or Cherbourg. Air patrols are to be flown p.m/5 in case she tries to pass the Iceland Faroes passage from the westward during the night 5/6 Feb.

Kiel Canal Blocked

It is reported that the Kiel Canal is blocked by ice and that convoys are being organized round Jutland for traffic of German North Sea ports to Norway, Sweden and the Baltic. The Dutch Canals and north Dutch ports are also frozen over.

SS RINGHORN was torpedoed in the N.W. Approaches early this morning.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused all patrols by Coastal Command last night to be cancelled, but Beauforts bombed the power station at Brest and Bomber Command also attacked the Brest Naval dockyard and Cherbourg.

Enemy Air Activity

Attacks on Shipping

SS CALAFATIS (Greek 4443 tons) in Convoy S.C. 20 was attacked by F.W. aircraft in the N.W. Approaches today and is believed to have been sunk.

SS GWYNWARD (1177 tons) was hit by a parachute mine today whilst at anchor in the Humber and is sinking in shallow water.

/Minesweepers....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Minesweepers GOSSAMER and HARRIER were ineffectively bombed today.

SOUTHDOWN and Convoy were attacked 18 miles E by N of Harwich. No damage is reported

VANITY and FN Convoy were bombed twice today off the North Foreland. VANITY shot down one and fighters two, of the enemy.

Lowestoft Attacked — Bombs dropped at Lowestoft today caused some naval casualties. One enemy plane was brought down.

Mining

Operation B.G. 50 — TEVIOT BANK and MEYNELL laid mines this afternoon in the East Coast Barrier.

INTREPID and IMPULSIVE are to disembark their mines and embark guns. With ICARUS they will be employed as minelaying escort for TEVIOT BANK.

Operation S.N. 7. — 1st M.L. Squadron and 4 destroyers left Port E.A. today to carry out this operation NIGERIA left Scapa at 2130 to provide close escort, and RODNEY with 4 destroyers left at 2105 to provide cover.

Aircraft Minelaying — Last night, 5 Hampdens laid mines successfully off Brest and 2 off Lorient.

Enemy Mining — Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary and a large number off Liverpool.

The Humber is closed owing to minelaying.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
~~Monday~~ Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT

Operations Against Vicy French

80% of French imports are passing to enemy countries.

South Atlantic

D.F. bearings indicate the possibility of an enemy raider within 200 miles of 11° N 23° W., and it is possible that cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER which left Bathurst 30/a.m. and has not reported since, may have been intercepted. 1st C.S. is to search, on the way to meet For ce Z. (Note Communication with LADY DENISON PENDER was established 0940/6)

Mediterranean

Mining of Suez Canal

Further mines were dropped in the Suez Canal today. Traffic was resumed throughout the Canal this morning after sweeping. Twelve ships reached Suez safely, but Greek SS IERIOS GEORGIOS (3800 tons) was mined at 1130 at km 143 and is across the Canal, stopping all navigation. It is hoped that small ships may be able to pass the wreck shortly and that normal navigation may be resumed in about 15 days time.

Operations against Libya

There are indications that the enemy are rapidly abandoning Benghazi. All available submarines have been ordered to concentrate in the Tripoli-Sicilian Channel route.

Mersa Tobruk was mined by enemy aircraft today, but owing to the urgency of providing army supplies the risk to shipping has been accepted until corvettes arrive which cannot be before 7/2.

Yugoslav neutrality

It is evident that full use is being made by the enemy both of Yugo-Slav ships and territorial waters.

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Policy

Admiralty Meeting of 7/2. — My 1616/26/1. Agenda for meeting to be held at the Admiralty at 1115/7. (A.C.N.S. H. 1333/4)

Stranraer Examination Service — Examination service at Stranraer will be operating from 0800/6. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 1141/4)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE — At 1130/4 (D.C. 1147/4)
At 2330/4 (D.C. 2354/4)

Scapa Repair of Loops — Your 1110/2. Anticipated that cable ship EMILE BAUDOT will be ready for service about 22/2 and will then be available for repairs to loops and laying of H.D.A. unit. (D.A/S.W 1148/4 to A.C.O.S)

Movements

SEALION — Leave patrol 1800/6. Route to Gap A. (S. 6 1030/4 to SEALION)

KING GEORGE V — My 1028/30. Request A/S air escort during daylight/5th for KING GEORGE V. Estimated position at 0900/5: 060° 39' N., 011° 32' W. Codeword LABEL (C. in C., H.F. 1545/4 to C. in C., Rosyth)

JACKAL — Sail JACKAL to Plymouth when fuelled. (C. in C., Londonderry)

Expect A/S air escort by Hudson aircraft throughout daylight/5. (C. in C., Rosyth 1944/4 to KING GEORGE V)

Northern Patrol — Trawler Lines tonight. 2 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1550/4)

/Submarine....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Movements-Contd.

Submarine Positions — At 0800/5 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1716/4.)

RESOLUTION — Admiralty 1206/3. Concur in proposed route. Proposed R/V for destroyers. Arrangements for Air Escort. Consider it most desirable that some Hunt class destroyer should join the escort from daylight Z- 2.
Intend to ask H.Q.F.C. for fighter escort during daylight in channel. (C. in C., W.A. 1905/4)

Operations

Operation P.X. — Operation ordered in AL. M/P.D. 09493/41 dated 1/2 will be known as P.X. Weather permitting it will be carried out to-morrow night. (C. in C., Nore, 1712/4)

British Air Activity

Patrols. Search for HIPPER — Request preparation be made to establish air patrol R. 1. and R. 2. starting a datum point 061° N., 012° W., in a direction 300° p.m. today. Object is to watch for and report HIPPER if she tries to pass Iceland Faeroes Channel from westward during the night 4/5-2 (C. in C. H.F., 0212/4 to C. in C., Rosyth) (See 0715/4)

My 2240/3.
Patrol Baily will be flown today. (C. in C Rosyth 0614/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

Patrol referred to in my 0212/4 will not be flown (C. in C., H.F. 0715/4 to KING GEORGE V)

My 0614/4. First aircraft returned owing to engine trouble. Second and final will take off from Wick about 1100. (C. in C., Rosyth 0810/4 to C. in C., H.F.)

My 0002/1/1. Owing to shortage of A/C Patrol UNIT will seldom be flown and, as weather often stops Patrol FAIR, these two Patrols should no longer be regarded as being flown daily. When flown, they will be included in Daily Signal. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1310/4) See Summaries Folder

HOME COMMANDS

British Air Activity-Contd.

5 Patrol Stand is being flown to reach Norwegian coast at dusk. (C. in C., Rosyth 1632/4)

Search for HIPPER

Request patrols R 1 R 2 and FUGLE may be flown p.m/5. Object is to cover operation S.N. 7 and also to report German Cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER if she tries to pass Iceland Faroes passage from westward during the night of 5/6. (C. in C., H.F. 2321/4 to C. in C., Rosyth)

Escort for FURIOUS.

Expect escort of Whitley aircraft about 0930 and Sunderland later. (C. in C., W.A. 0805/4 to FURIOUS)

HIPPER
At Brest
To be attacked

Available aircraft No 217 Squadron to attack tonight. Cruiser in dry dock at Brest with S.A.P. Bombs. Alternative target Submarines in U-Boat base at Lorient. (H.Q.C.C. 1207/4 to 15 Group, St. Eval)

Available aircraft No 53 Squadron to attack tonight cruiser in dry dock at Brest with S.A.P. bombs. Alternative target shipping in the Darse Transatlantique. Cherbourg. (H.Q.C.C. 1208/4 to 16 Group, Thorney Island)

Enemy Air Activity

GOSSAMER

Help. One enemy A/C bombing OEAB cable (?Table: GOSSAMER & HARRIER minesweepers) (GOSSAMER 0905/2)

Fighter aircraft have been despatched to the assistance of "Cable" (?Table) (Nore, 0929/4)

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

Convoy

One enemy aircraft attacking Convoy in 51° 59' N., 1° 44' E. (SOUTHDOWN 0919/4)

BARON RENFREW
(Bombed 28/1)

TENACITY considers towing unnecessary in present weather. Has requested me to stand by. Have bunker for 3 days. (ST. OLAVES 0925/4)

BARON RENFREW (?) developed heavy port list ST OLAVES standing by. (TENACITY 0935/4)

ST. OLAVE's 0925/4 and TENACITY's 0935/4. ST. OLAVES to stand by BARON RENFREW so long as fuel permits proceeding as necessary to Ardrossan to coal. TENACITY to report if assistance of another tug is required. If sufficiently seaworthy BARON RENFREW is to be taken to Rothesay Bay. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1240/4)

Continue to escort BARON RENFREW landing survivors at Rothesay. Report if BARON RENFREW cannot be taken to Rothesay in accordance with N.O.i/c Greenock's 1240/4. (C. in C., W.A., 2005/4 to CANDYTUFT)

WAZIRISTAN
(Bombed 2/2)

Am approximately in position. No signs of LORD MIDDLETON or WAZIRISTAN. Have had to heave to owing to bad weather. visibility two miles. (BANDIT 1020/4)

Full gale and rain storms. Hove to. Course S.S.W. two knots. Estimated position 61° N., 12° 9' W. (BANDIT 1300/4)

BANDIT 1300/4. If BANDIT has not made contact by tomorrow request aircraft if available to assist her. DOUGLAS pass to BANDIT. (A.C.O.S., 1854/4 to C. in C., Rosyth)

/Still unable....

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

WAZIRISTAN (Bombed 2/2) Contd.

Still unable to turn. (BANDIT 1950/4)

WAZIRISTAN reported by A/C at 1147/4 in 061° 20' N., 011° 56' W., Armed trawler in company. DOUGLAS pass to BANDIT. (C. in C., Rosyth 2348/4 to DOUGLAS)

Lowestoft Bombed

Following from N.O.I.C. Lowestoft. Enemy aircraft dropped 4 bombs at 0925 on outskirts Waveney Docks. One direct hit on dug out. Feared approx. 3 naval ratings killed and buried. Excavation now proceeding. Enemy plane brought down and two Germans picked up. (F.O.I.C., Gt. Yarmouth 1030/4 to C. in C., Nore)

At 0925 Enemy Plane dropped 8 bombs Lowestoft Harbour and Town.
3 Naval, 10 Civilian, casualties.
Enemy subsequently destroyed. Two Germans picked up by Yarmouth Examination vessel, one wounded, one dead. (N.O.I.C., Lowestoft 1045/4 to Admty.)

Firth of Forth Heights of E/C Enemy A/C

Your 2050/3.
On 24th reported by GARTH at 3000 feet
On 24th reported by Patrol craft at 1000 ft.
On 25th reported by Patrol craft as very low
On 27th reported by VALOROUS at 2000 feet
(C. in C., Rosyth 1041/4 to Admty.)

Convoy E.N. Even

Enemy bombing Convoy in 51° 33' N., 1° 17'E (VANITY 1137/4)

1 Dornier shot down over Gunfleet. (VANITY 1150 to C. in C., Nore)

Convoy being bombed by aircraft in 51° 49' N., 1° 32' E. (VANITY 1405/4)

/My 1405.....

MOST SECRET

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

War Diary

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy E.N. Even-Contd. — My 1405. No hits. 1 Dornier shot down by fighters. (VANITY 1409/4)

My 1405. Another Dornier shot down by fighters. (VANITY 1415/4)

DIONE II (Bombed 3/2) — Have carried out searches without success Have you any further information?. My p. c and s 055° 56' N., 014° 20' W., 180° 1 knot. (ASSURANCE 1630/4 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)

Fireballs off Lowestoft — 2 white fire 2 balls bearing 340° from 52° 23' N., 2° 1' E. (VANITY 1909/4)

ONYNWOOD — (British, 1177 tons) At 1915/4 while at anchor in convoy anchorage was hit in engine room aft by a parachute mine. Six of crew saved. eleven missing at present (F.O.Humber, 2145/4 to Admty.)

Mining

Thames Estuary 2 mines — Red mine detonated 2100/3 in 127° East Shingles Buoy 3.6 miles. Simultaneously explosion took place on starboard Quarter of leader and abeam of ORONESA trawler following five cables astern of LL Trawlers. Consider probably Green Mine, counter mined. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1040/4)

EMMAPLEIN — My 1817/2. Complete air search of area carried out yesterday without result. EMMAPLEIN considered sunk. (A.C.O.S., 1121/4)

Sweep of Thames Approaches — Request you arrange to carry out an Oropesa search of proposed new channel from (A) to (D) with fast minesweepers. (C. in C., Nore, 1144/4 to F.O.I.C. Harwich)

/H.S. 50.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Mining-Contd.

B.S. 50. Operation completed. (TEVIOT BANK 1530/4)

F.N. 29 Your 2008/31. Extension you propose cannot be approved. At present there is a considerable flow of genuine neutral trade which it would be very unfortunate to disturb. (A.C.N.S. H. 1647/4 to F.O.S.)

DOUWE AUKES Your 0943/1. DOUWE AUKES to return mines to Prater, and then to be sailed for Sheerness. (D.O.D., H. 1658/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)

INTREPID
IMPULSIVE
ICARUS 1. On return to Immingham INTREPID and IMPULSIVE are to disembark present outfit of mines and embark guns. They will be employed together with ICARUS as a minelaying escort for TEVIOT BANK. (A.C.N.S. H. 1317/4 to Commander D.20)

Liverpool 3 mines exploded at 1010/4, 1012/4, 1023/4 Particulars. (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1826/4)

SS CALYX
Damaged
9 Mines
Detonated. Mine report to 1800/3 SS CALYX detonated one mine 045° Bar L.V. 8 miles. Ship slightly damaged now docked. To 1800/4. Total of 8 accoustic mines detonated by S.A. Gear. (Positions) (F.O.I.C., Liverpool 1848/4)

Operation
S.N. 7. Departure Port Z.A. 1830/4 R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE, MENESTHEUS, PORT QUEBEC, AGAMEMNON, BRIGHTON, LANCASTER, ST. ALBANS, and CHARLESTON. (TRELAWNEY 1832/4)

Sailed from Scapa. NIGERIA, 2130, RODNEY, INGLEFIELD, ELECTRA, ECHO, BRILLIANT, at 2105. (A.C.O.S. 2135/4)

Humber
closed Humber closed owing to Minelaying. (C. in C., Rosyth, 2307/4 to VERSATILE)

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence

Unknown Vessel
2 Lifeboats

From unknown station. S.O.S. 56.27, 13.40 west 2 Rettungsboote. (Valencia Radio 1021/4)

Detatch one destroyer to investigate. Destroyer should rejoin before dark. (C. in C., W.A., 1143/4 and 1235/4 to FURIOUS)

Suspicious Tanker

M/V's CHILEAN REEFER and AUTOLYCUS report independently suspicious Tanker sighted a.m. 2/2 in 060° 45' N., 019° 40' W., steering S.W. slow speed. Description. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1320/4)

Two E-Boats

Two enemy E-Boats bearing 130°., 2 miles course 130°. My position 51° 54' N., 1° 42' E. (Capt D. 16 1439/4)

My 1439. Have lost touch with enemy. (D. 16 1449/4)

Your 1439. These were M.T.B's 14 and 18. (C. in C., Nore, 1817/4 to D. 16)

HIPPER-class Cruiser

My 1400/4. From photographs it is believed that HIPPER class Cruiser is not in Brest. Reconnaissance shows that ship is not in Bordeaux, La Rochelle or Cherbourg. (D.D.I.C., 1745/4)

Vardo

Finnish Motor Ship CAROLINA THORDEN stopped by German Armed Trawler 15 miles off coast and taken to Vardo 2/2 released next day. Four trawlers appeared to be stationed there. One brought in ship name and nationality unknown probably Finnish SS WIPUNEN which left here for Panama same day. (Consul, Petsamo, 1757/4)

/By D.F.....

War Diary

2.2.1941
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Enemy Intelligence -Contd.

By D/F at 1836 B.S.T. unidentified Enemy Unit minor surface vessel in 54° 05' N., 5° 15' E., (D.D.I.C., 1926/4)

Kiel Canal Blocked by Ice.

My 2013/4. (Ice Report) Owing to blockage of Kiel Canal through Ice, convoys are being organized round Jutland for traffic of German North Sea ports to Norway, Sweden, and Baltic B. 2. (N.A.Stockholm, 2024/4)

N.I.B. Comment. As traffic through the Canal has been restricted recently, and large numbers of Merchant ships have collected in Holtenau Roads, this report is probably correct.

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

O.B.C. 282 — 0153/4. Escort ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, ACHATES, HEATHER LADY MADELINE, PICOTEE, SNOWDROP. 10. (6 with kites) (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0205/4, amended 0900/4) List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1005/4)

O.B.C. 282 — Sailed 0830/4. escort AYRSHIRE. One ship for Capetown SURAT. No kites. (N.C.S.O. 0910/4)

F.N. and F.S. — Amend my 2040/31/1 and 1650/3/2 as follows:- Escorts of F.S. 4 and F.N. 3. HASTINGS, WALLACE.
Escorts of F.S. 6- VERDUN, VALOROUS.
(C. in C., Rosyth, 0947/4)

E.N. 67 — 2130/4. H.M.T's ULLSWATER, PAINTER, extra escort H.M.T. BERKSHIRE joining ABERDEEN.
Additional escort FOWEY. 20 ships.
Buchan Ness 1530/5. Duncansby Head 0615/6
Code Words:- EN 67 USAGE
EN L Portion MONITOR
EN O Portion MIXTURE
Loch Ewe Portion SLEEVE
(N.C.S.O.Methil, 0949/4)

My 0949/4. Add to Additional escort CHALLENGER. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1529/4)

W.N. 79 (O) — 8 Ships. (List) (N.C.S.O. Oban 1010/4 to Admty.)

F.N. 100 — 0915/4, 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1041/4 Amended 1214/4)

F.S. 3. — Proceed at 1400 today to overtake F.S. 3 act as additional escort. Part company at Outer Dowsing and return to Rosyth adjusting speed to arrive daylight 6/2. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1125/4 to VIMIERA)

E.N. 65 — Arrived less BORGHOLM (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1143/4)

/My 1143.....

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

E.N. 65-Contd.	My 1143/4 BORGHOLM now arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1502/4)
F.N. 98	Arrived 1145/4 (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1158/4)
8 M/V's	N.C.S.O. Dartmouth's 2004/3. Intend sailing WIVERN and VANSITTART at 1730 to cover the passage of these M.V's. (C. in C., W.A 1205/4 to C. in C., Portsmouth)
F.S. 3.	VIMIERA will act as additional escort for F.S. 3 from Latitude of Whitby to outer Dowsing. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1159/4)
	Western Channel Night Report. (C. in C., W.A., 1311/4 amended 1841/4)
F.N. 99	1115/4. 30 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1329/4.)
?	Not met. Convoy must have passed East and been missed in low visibility. 61° 25' 20° 40'. (Weather) (LINCOLN, 1401/4 to C. in C., W.A.)
F.N. 99	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1403/4.)
W.N. 80	1248/4. H.M.T. HUGH WALPOLE INDIAN STAR escorting 6 ships. 1 ship with Kite. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1415/4)
	List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1421/4)
F.S. 3.	Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1512/4)
C.E. 24 8 M.V's	Portsmouth night movements 4/5th. C.E. 24 St Helens to Nore. VANOC and CLEVELAND acting as additional escort and returning to Spithead 0800/5. 2 A/S trawlers and 8 M/V's Dartmouth to Nab WIVERN and VANSITTART from Plymouth to Nab acting as cover. (C. in C., Portsmouth, 1613/4)

/F.N. 1.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

F.N. 1. (4) Code word for F.N. one South of the Tyne R A D I O. (C. in C., Rosyth, 1623/4 to SOUTHDOWN, COTSWOLD)

C.E. 24 Portsmouth to Southend (List) (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth, 1627/4)

8 M/V's My 2004/3. LOOSE sailed seven M/V's and escorts. (N.C.S.O., Dartmouth, 1637/4)

F.S. 3 List and destinations. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1656/4)

F.S. 3. sailed 1500/4/2, estimated number of ships 52. (F.O.I.C., 1659/4)

W.N. 79 Loch Ewe Section sailed 1700/4. 6 ships. (N.C.S.O., Aultbea, 1702/4)

F.N. 99 15 ships, 1 H.N.D. and 8 trawlers from Humber joining at Outer Dowsing. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1719/4)

W.N. 79 Loch Ewe Section (List) (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1749/4)

F.N. 100
F.N. 99
C.E. 24
F.S. 3
F.N. 1 } Convoy positions at 0800/5. (A.C.H.Q., Chatham, 1843/4)

O.B. 282 My 1914/3 (escort for O.B. 282) delete PICOTEE and SNOWDROP. (Capt. (D) Greenock, 1902/4)

O.B. 281 Remain with O.B. 281 until further orders. (A.C.W.A., 1903/4 to WITCH, MONTGOMERY, WILD SWAN)

/E.N. 66.....

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys-Contd.

E.N. 66 (ROSLIN CASTLE passed)	Ship passed E.N. 66 058° 42' N., 005° 38' W., estimated speed 18 knots, gave name ROSLIN CASTLE, approx course 275°. Reporting as have received no information. (STELLA CAPELLA, 1925/4 to C. in C., W.A.)
O.G.M. 52.	1927/4. H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY, Two, One with Kite. (N.C.S.O. Milford Haven, 1938/4)
E.N. 67	CHALLENGER acts as additional escort to E.N. 67 as far as Dunnet Head, thence proceeds independently to Clyde. (N.C.S.O Methil 1529/4/2 refers. (C. in C., Rosyth 1941/4 to C. in C., W.A.)
F.S. 3.	Part company with TEVIOT BANK at Humber light vessel and proceed to join convoy F.S. 3 due Outer Dowsing 1130/5. You are to form additional escort to Sheerness. (C. in C., Nore, 2224/4 to MEYNELL)
E.N. 67.	2130/4. H.M.T's ULLSWATER, PAYNTER. Extra escort H.M.T. BERKSHIRE, joining off Aberdeen additional escort PONEY, CHALLENGER. 21 ships. 12 with kites. (N.C.S.O. Methil 2255/4) (List and destinations) 2302/4)

Ocean Convoys

H.X. 108	Your 1201/3 Destinations. (D.T.D. 1934/4 to N.C.S.O. Bermuda)
H.X. 103	Made a bad landfall for Butt of Lewis and passed north of North Rona Island. Commodore stated he had no knowledge of QZX. 170 neither had the Master of his ship a notation of Admiralty Notice to Mariners 1768/40 on his charts. Request your remarks. (D.T.D. 1936/4 to C.S.A.C. Halifax)

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

Ocean Convoys-Contd.

S.L. 65. Sailing destinations. (D.T.D. 2008/4 to N.C.S.O. Freetown)

Military Convoys

W.S. 6 My 2318/21. Para 2. Speed of slowest ship in convoy will be 10½ knots.
Para 3. Amend as follows:-
Add tanker CYMBULA from Mersey.
Delete MAHARDA from Mersey and LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE from Clyde. (1st S.L. 1146/4)

Admty. 2318/21.
(1) A/S escort W.S. 6 unescorted Bristol Channel portion BROADWATER (B) Liverpool portion RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT (C) Clyde portion, OTTAWA, LEGION, PIORUN, GARLAND, SKEENA, NIZAM (D) KEPPEL, COTTESMORE, ATHERSTONE also DOUGLAS if available to join from Londonderry as arranged by N.O.i/c Liverpool (ii) Senior Officer A/S escort OTTAWA. (C. in C., W.A., 1625/4)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Tuesday

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS

SUNFISH	Request dock for repairs to Asdic. (SUNFISH 0415/4 to Capt. S. 6.)
ROCKPOOL (Grounded 1/2)	Request immediate assistance. Possibility of abandoning ship. Tugs have not arrived. (ROCKPOOL, 0759/5 to F.O.I.C. Greenock)
FAME	Sailed for Chatham in tow of tugs WATERMEYER and FAIRPLAY I and escorted by SHELDRAKE. (N.O.I.C., Sunderland, 0955/4)
	Proceed daylight along S.Z.S. 40 until SHELDRAKE and FAME in tow tugs are met and form additional escort to Sheerness. Estimated position FAME Sheringham Light Float 0430 speed of advance 9 knots. (C. in C., Nore, 2300/4 to EXMOOR)
TORBAY (S/M) VANCOUVER (British Tanker 5729 tons) Beached.	TORBAY was in collision with Tanker VANCOUVER while carrying out independent exercises in Loch Long at 1737/3. TORBAY had only slight headway after surfacing and damage to her bow is superficial. Tanker holed in Engine Room and had later to be beached. (S. 2. 1252/4 to F.O.S.)
IMBAT	(Wooden Steam Drifter) Sunk in collision Cost of salvage and repair excessive and success problematical. Intend to destroy wreck. Request relief drifter may be sent. (R.A.Scapa, 1725/4 to D.S.V.P.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Enemy Unit	Following by D/F Bearing unknown unit reported by Admty. at 2137/3 Land's End 210, Scarborough 207. (F.O.C.N.A., 0104/4 to S and A North Atlantic)
CLAN CAMPBELL	British CLAN CAMPBELL Freetown 29/1. Liverpool 11¼ knots (Route) (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/4 to S and A N.A.Station)
Force Z	Your 1259/3 and your 1255/3. In view of A.C.W.A's 1659/1 giving E.T.A. of force Z in new position K 054° 30' N., 020° 40' W., as 1100Z-1/3, Force Z cannot reach position Q at 16 knots before 1300Z-16. Re Admty's 1049/29, amend position Q to read 035° 00' N., 022° 40' W. (F.O.C.N.A., 1650/4 to C. in C., S.A.)
Operation "Ration"	Your 1036/3. This information makes situation quite clear as to action required. Unless there are objections I consider it would help locally if Captain of French escort and merchant ships can be informed by boarding officer that action is being taken because we are aware 80% of French imports are passing to enemy countries. (S.O.Force H., 1737/4 to Admty.)
EMPIRE TROOPER	D. of S.T's 1752/3. Earliest date of arrival of EMPIRE TROOPER at Lagos. (Route date) (F.O.C.N.A., 1800/4 to C. in C., S.A.)
RESOLUTION	My 1919/27. Departure postponed (date) (A.C.N.S. (F) 2308/4 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic

Enemy Units

D/F bearing indicates enemy unit presumed surface vessel possibly auxiliary within 100 miles of 023° N., 020° W., at 2137/Z/3 (C. in C., S.A., 0129N/4 to South Atlantic Stn. Squadron.)

By D/F on 5315 kcs. at 0027/4 G.M.T. Position of unknown enemy unit was approx. 7° 20' S., 22° 25' W., (bearing) (D.D.I.C. 0511/4)

D/F bearings indicates unknown enemy unit in approximately 007° 20' S., 022° 25' W., at 0027Z/4. (C. in C., S.A., 0715N/4, to S.A.Squadron)

Your 0511/4. Suggest that Raider position at 0027Z/4 was within 150 miles of either 4°S., 20° W., or 9°S., 26° W., reliability 40% for each area.
Also bearings of the same message repeated on Nordeich frequency at 0157Z and? (0'36Z/4) may refer to auxiliary within 200 miles of 11° N., 23° W., reliability 40%. (C. in C., S.A., 1841/4 to Admty.)

My 0129/4. Consideration of further bearings indicates this unit was within 200 miles of 058° S., 018° E., reliability 45%. Possible a more Northerly unit was transmitting simultaneously. (C. in C., S.A., 1845/4 to S.A.Squadron)

AFRICA MARU

Your 1415/3. Details of cargo. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1703/4, 1705/4, to Admty.)

LADY DENISON PENDER
C.S. 1 to search.

My 1259/3. D/F bearings indicate possibility of enemy raider or auxiliary within 200 miles of position 011° N., 023° W., at 0236Z/4. Cable ship LADY DENISON PENDER left Bathurst a.m./30/1 to operate in position 014° 52' N., 023° 28' W should have been there 1/2 but has not reported, may have been intercepted on passage. Search area roughly between logitudes 019° 30' W., and 022° 00' W., as far as practicable on passage. Meeting with Force Z not to be delayed more than 5 hours. (C. in C., S.A., 1929N/4 to C.S.1)

/Possible Raiders...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Possible Raiders

Enemy activities on this coast appear to indicate presence or expected presence of German raiders this side of South Atlantic.
Secret sources report offers to divulge position of raider but no positions yet obtained though offers are being investigated.
Secret source (C.O) reports raider will fuel night of 8-9/2.
(S.O.I. Montevideo, 1941 2/4 to R.A.S.A.D.)

Enemy W/T Analysis

Your 1105/29.
Ref. para 1. During the period 20/12 to 28/1, 20 signals were intercepted originating in South Atlantic, South of the Equator.
2. Ref. Para 3. Types of ships cannot be identified by study of W/T traffic, but certain signals are characteristic of U-Boats, others are not. These characteristics are present in Freetown area and northward, and on the Halifax route. The identical features are therefore explained by probability that in both cases they originate from U-Boats. These features are absent South of the Equator, and it is probable that signals there were made by surface units.
3. It is thought that German Shore Authorities are not primarily interested in this traffic. Inference is that signals are intercommunications between ships.
4. Considered that traffic in the area South of the Equator originates, as suggested in your para. 2 a, from surface raiders intercommunicating or operating with supply ships, and it is possible that SCHEER and her Auxiliary were responsible.
(Head of M. 2231/4 to C. in C., S.A.)

French S/M's Positions

Telegrams intercepted by special French intercept station, indicate:-
1. ESPOIR and VENGEUR are at Diego-Saures.
2. VILLE DE ROUEN and LECONTE DE LISLE have either left or are about to leave Madagascar for Europe. (No. 20 Military Mission, Brazzaville, 1010/5)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterrenean.

Suez Canal.

My 1039/3. Traffic has been resumed throughout canal. Expected that DERWENT HALL will arrive at Tewfik p.m. today.
(S.N.O. Suez Canal, 1033/4 to Admty. etc.)
See also 1443/4.

Enemy Ships Bombed.

Operational summary No.239 up to 1200 hours 4/2. Egypt. Day 3/2. 8 Blenheims bombed 2 enemy ships off coast near Sirte and M.T. convoy in neighbourhood of Sirte. Reconnaissances Benghazi reported hospital ship and damaged ships.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1241/4).

Yugo Slav., neutrality.

It is evident that full use is being made by enemy both of Yugo Slav ships and territor-al waters. Proposals.
(C.in C. Med. 1245/4). See Mediterranean Volume.

A/S vessels.

Group 16 aux. A/S vessels and P.(? O) L vessels will be and five(as received) are very urgently required in Mediterranean. Request their completion and sailing may be hastened as much as possible. What is situation as regards (? crews).
(C.in C. Med., 1305/4 to C.in C. S.A.)

Minesweepers Needed.

N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0717Z/31. 109th Minesweeping Group is very urgently required in Mediterranean to cope with magnetic mining. Request passage to Suez may be hastened.
(C.in C. Med., 1307/4 to C.in C. E.I.)

Canal Sweeping, Greek ship Mined.

My 1033/4. Canal between Kabret and Suez thoroughly swept with one sweep and D.W.I. Wellington aircraft before traffic started. 12 ships reached Suez safely. (? 13th).
Ship, Greek INRIOS GEORGIOS 3800 (? tons) mined at kilometre 143 at 1130 and is across canal stopping all navigation.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1443/4 to Admty etc.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

W.S. 5 A. — Bunker and requirements at Suez. (S.S.T.O. Port Said, 1813/4)

INRIOS GEORGIOS — My 1443/4. Ship nearly broken in two and after part towed partly clear leaving channel about 25 metres wide. Salvage and/or (? demolition) being undertaken and canal being widened by dredging. Hope small ships may be able to pass wreck shortly and normal navigation be resumed in about 15 days. (S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1903/4 to Admty. etc.)

Benghazi, orders to TRUANT TETRARCH — Proceed Westward with all despatch as far as possible on surface TRUANT South and TETRARCH North of line 290° from Benghazi Light. Further orders following. (Capt. S. 1. 1805/4. to TRUANT, TETRARCH)

Ammunition for Captured Guns — Capture of Italian 20 mm. Breda guns raises problem of spare barrels and ammunition. Please indicate proposals. (D.T.S.O. 1851/4 to W.O.)

ILLUSTRIOUS — Re dispersal of ammunition. (D.T.S.O., 1852/4 to C. in C., Med.)

S/M Patrols — Operation B.S. Appendix One, para 4. Establish patrol lines as follows. (Capt. S.1. 1901/4 to TRIUMPH, TETRARCH, TRUANT)

Cancel my 1901/4. Operation B.S. Appendix 1 para. 4. Establish patrol lines as follows (Capt. S. 1. 2311/4 to TRIUMPH, TETRARCH, TRUANT)

URSULA — URSULA leaves Malta 0001/5 for J 035° 15' 011° 28' - 000° - 30 - 30. (S.O. (S) Malta, 2113/4, to UPRIGHT)

/Suez Canal.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

Mediterranean-Contd.

Suez Canal Mines Exploded	Your 1902/2 and 1939/3. Request for details of mines (D.N.S., 2203/4 to S.B.N.O., Suez Canal)
S/M Patrol Benghazi	Indications are enemy rapidly abandoning Benghazi. All available submarines ordered to concentrate in Tripoli-Sicilian Channel route. Unless otherwise ordered carry out patrol ordered. (S.O.(S), Malta, 1847/4 to UTMOST)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies

Enemy Unit	Colombo's 1457/2. Transmission read by Mauritius W/T Station at 1457/2 G.M.T. was of control on 16350 kcs. and was not a series B transmission. (D.D.I.C. 0149/4 to C. in C., E.I.)
Four Ships required in Mediterranean immediately.	Amendment to his 1028/3 (C. in C., E.I. 0740Z/4)
Bombing of Mogadishu, night of 2/2	My 2005/2 and your 0652/3 not to Admty. A. Night dive bombing attack, 9 A/C Targets and Apparent Results. No casualties. One A/C hit by single rifle-calibre bullet. B. Corrosion "CUCUMBERS". Circle 200 yard radius, centre 110° 9 cables from leading light. (S.O. Force K., 0717Z/4 to C. in C. E.I.)
Persian Gulf Contraband Control	S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0802/1 passed to Admty with reference to 1148/23/1. (1) Concur generally. Experience may show one A.B.V to be necessay to augment present forces. (11) Consider 2 dhows should be taken up and armed to deal with dhow traffic. Matter under investigation. (111) Consider question of assistance by A/C should be deferred effectiveness of surface patrol has been tried out. (C. in C., E.I., 0850Z/4 to Admiralty, Repeated F.O.C., R.I.N., S.N.O., Persian Gulf, C. o S., Singapore)
BANKURA BAMORA BARPETA BARJORA	Your 1028 and your 1856/3. Dates of arrival at Aden. (S.S.T.O. Bombay, 1012Z/4 to C. in C., E.I.)
FALMOUTH	My 0452/21/1. Date of readiness for service. (C. in C., E.I., 1056Z/4 to Admty.)

/SHROPSHIRE.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

East Indies-Contd.

SHROPSHIRE
HERMES

Sailed, E.T.A. Kilindini 0600/9.
(N.O.I.C., Durban, 1609Z/4)

JARAGOLA
"Q" Report

My 1236/2/2. Ship JARAGOLA sighted was H.M.S. CAPETOWN. (C. in C., E.I., 1824/4 to Admty.)

FORMIDABLE

In view of S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1443/4 (Minesweeping in Canal) is FORMIDABLE to proceed to Suez? (C. in C., E.I., 1926Z/4 to C. in C., Med.)

Enemy Unit

By D/F on 12700 kc/s at 1943 B.S.T. bearings of enemy surface unit (details) (D.D.I.C., 2339/4 to C. in C's E.I. and S.A. etc.)

China

Aircraft
Tender

Air Ministry 1028/25 and X 309 26/1 to C.H.Q., Far East. Para 3, ship tender. Requirements. Unable to obtain anything oil-burning here so have decided accept one coal-burning. Another, oil-burning is needed.

Facilities at Nancowry, Maldives, Seychelles, Mauritius, etc. (H.Q. Far East, 0130/4 to Air Ministry)

Enemy Unit

D/F position 0027Z/4. German mobile unit. 018° N., 111° E., Vicinity reciprocal position more likely. (C.O.S., Singapore, 0341Z/4, to C. in C., A.W.I.)

Raider
Intelligence

Admty's. 671A/4/1. Agree he had facts regarding raiders A B and C. As raiders A and B are reported to have met in the vicinity of Marshall Island on 10/10. (Navy Board Melbourne 1300/12/1) Consider raider which captured OLE JACOB is not (as suggested by C. in C., E.I., 1744/17/1 para one) connected with Pacific activity. (C. in C., China, 0475Z/4 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

4.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

America & West Indies

U.S.Navy Request for information of Ship Movements.

Your 1305/30/1. In view of N.A. Washington 1239/3, no action is to be taken.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 1002/4 to S.N.O. Curacoa)

D/F Signals

Re merchant ship receivers. (C.N.S., Canada 1203/4)

ARANGI)
AWATEA)

Re protection of. Conveying New Zealand Air Force personnel, and employment of PRINCE ROBERT and PRINCE HENRY to escort (C. in C., A.W.I., 1301/4 to Admty.)
See Operations Volume.

Inter-Island Air Communication

S.N.O. Curacao 1226/3 being passed to you. This would be welcome and would greatly assist in improvement of inter-Island communication.
Recommend facilities be given later on to requirements of service aircraft.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 1732/4 to Admty.)

Detach S/M for A/S training

Your 1141/30. With concurrence of Dutch C. in C., it has now been decided that O.15 shall be retained in Canada after refit in order to assist in A/S training. Date of completion of refit of O.15 should be reported. (D.O.D. (H) 1741/4 to C.N.S. Canada)

DRAMATIST
BEAVERBRAE
PACIFIC SHIPPER
MANCHESTER MERCHANT.

Freightships (named) sailed with Aircraft Trinidad, St. John N.B. and Halifax N.S. (dates)
(D. of S.T. 2009/4 to C. in C., A.W.I., C.N.S., Ottawa)

Shipping, Canal Ports.

Your 1056/30. Supplies of S.P. 02272 (10) and (11) not available at Colon, Curacao or Bermuda. Ships bound for U.K. from Canal were therefore routed via Jamaica where supplies were available. Bunkering at canal ports was arranged as a temporary measure to save time and expence. Small stocks of S.P's mentioned being sent from Jamaica to Colon by first opportunity, after which normal bunkering will be resumed.
(C. in C., A.W.I., 2246/4 to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.2.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

BABITONGA, DRESDEN. — Following received from Santos. (A.S.) BABITONGA and DRESDEN were testing main engines for four hours today Monday. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 0124Z/4).

ERNA OLDENDORFF. — My 1105/28. ERNA is now afloat at Marin and being pumped out. Spanish colours apparently painted on sides for the voyage have been removed. (Consul, Vigo 1030/4).

PLUS. — PLUS sailed tonight Tuesday. (N.V.Vigo, 1122/4 to Admty).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SONTAY. — Your 1810/3. In view of presence of invalids on board, SONTAY should proceed on voyage to Simonstown as soon as possible. Future commitments of SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA also render this desirable. (Head of M, 1051/4 to F.O.I.C. Simonstown).

MENDOZA. — Following from M.E.W. Your 2355/2. MENDOZA and cargo to be seized with exception of following items which are released:- Instructions being sent to Governor through Colonial Office. (D.E.W.D. 1850/4 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

RINGHORN CRISPIN. (Norwegian 1298 tons) Position 055 46'N., 0 022 36' W., picked up 5 survivors only of RINGHORN torpedoed at 0500/4. Have twice attacked doubtful contact. Am proceeding, CAMELIA in company. Have 121 survivors of H.M.S. CRISPIN some were picked up by other ship.
(HARVESTER 1320/4 to C.in C. W.A.)

RINGHORN has been in Convoy O.B.280 but was probably a straggler.
(D.S.519).

Unknown Ship. Reported at 1037/4 that she was being attacked by a U/Boat about 190' W.N.W. of Bloody Foreland. (D.O.R. 5/2).

Reporting of Attacks. A convoy was recently attacked by a U/Boat and no W/T reports were made by the Merchant Ships although some of them sighted the submarine. Ref: A.M.S.I. 237, Masters are to be informed that in future if a U/Boat attacks a convoy when an anti-submarine escort is present, ships attacked or in the immediate vicinity must invariably report immediately by W/T on 500 Kc/s any useful information they may have to impart to the escort.
(D.T.D. 1952/4 to N.C.S.O's).

Submarines Reported.

2347. By D/F on 5660 kc/s. at 2347/3. Position of German U/Boat was near 58° 30'N., 10° W. Very indefinite fix.
(D.D.I.C. 0027/4).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

4.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

1737. Submarine reported on surface ½ mile S.E. of Whiteness Hill Light 060° 35'N., 001° 00'W. at 1737 today. Submarine dived and proceeded in S.E. direction. (C.S.) (A.C.O.S. 1757/4).

0500. Message A.F. Position 55° 46'N., 22° 36'W. at 0400/4 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1834/4 to C.B.M.S. Area 1).

1228. 58.10N., 19° W. indefinite position (Germans) (D.S.519).

1622 and 1708. 58° N., 19° W.

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

German.

Possibly 1 between 60° N., and 62° N. 12° W. and 15° W.
Possibly 1 between 58° 30'N., and 60° 30'N 9° W. and 11° W.
1 within 60 miles of 58° 10'N., 19° W at 1228/4.
1 within 60 miles of 58° 30'N., 22° W.
1 within 56° 54'N., 20° 22'W. at 2239/3.
1 in about 53° 30'N., 20° 30'W at 1816/3 may have moved N.N.W.
Possibly 1 within 100 miles of 50° N., 27° W.
1 near Azores.

Italian.

1 in 54° N., 19° W. at 1521/3.
No news of others which may be at sea.
(D.D.I.C. 1257/4).

Submarines Attacked.

1320. By HARVESTER. See ships Attacked - RINGHORN.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.2.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

FURIOUS arrived in the Clyde today. C. in C., Home Fleet refers in his 1909/5 to our control of Northern Waters.

British Air Activity

Bad weather caused the majority of standard patrols and convoy escorts to be cancelled today.

143 aircraft were despatched last night by bomber command to attack Channel Ports and aerodromes. A direct hit was obtained on the dry dock at Brest, but the dock was empty.

Coastal Command aircraft attacked shipping at Cherbourg last night. Ten direct hits were definitely observed, as well as two bursts in a shipbuilding yard. 6 Blenheims, despatched with fighter escort today to attack enemy destroyers reported near -Calais, failed to locate the enemy owing to bad visibility.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.2.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy C.E. 24 was attacked by some 12 dive bombers this morning off North Foreland. A/S trawler TOURMALINE was sunk. A/S trawler LADY PHILOMENA shot down one of the enemy and one was shot down by fighters.

Convoy F.N. 1. was attacked twice off the east coast today. No damage is reported.

IONNIS M. EMBIRICOS (Greek) in Convoy S.C. 20 was bombed and disabled in the N.W. Approaches this morning.

Mining

Operation S.N. 7.

1st M.L. Squadron carried out this operation today. NIGERIA acting as close escort and HODDER with 4 destroyers providing cover, whilst so engaged.

MENESTHEUS was damaged by a British mine in 60° 23' N., 8° 3' W., and is in tow of AGAMEMNON. No tugs are available in the Orkneys and Shetlands to tow her.

Five Hampdens laid mines off St. Nazaire last night.

Enemy Minelaying

Mines were laid in daylight today by enemy aircraft off Southwold.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft in the Humber and Bristol Channel was suspected last night. Estimated 60 minelayers employed.

The Humber was opened soon after noon today. Six mines were exploded off Spurn Point during the day. Mines were also detonated off Milford Haven and Liverpool.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.2.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Shipping

Stragglers — Instructions for ships which straggle from O.B. and O.G. convoys in the neighbourhood of the Minches are contained in D.T.D's 1621/5.

Junction of S.L.S. and H.G. — A new scheme to facilitate the junction of S.L.S. and H.G. convoys is to begin with S.L.S. 65.

Invasion Precautions — Procedure to be adopted for ocean convoys in the event of invasion is continued in D.T.D. 1926/5.

South Atlantic

All Axis and Danish ships in Santos, Brazil, are making preparations for departure, but there are no signs of activity at other ports on the coast.

Further evidence from survivors of EURYCLOCHUS (Attacked on 29/1) on their arrival at Freetown today suggests her assailants were probably a pocket battleship and armed merchant raider.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

5.2.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Tunisian Territorial Waters.

Ships and aircraft may violate Tunisian territorial waters south of Susa for the purpose of attacking vessels identified as enemy. In order to avoid interference with bona fide French coastal traffic Tunisian territorial waters north of Susa are to be respected. Mines are not to be laid in Tunisian territorial waters. Identified enemy ships may be sunk at sight in all central Mediterranean waters south of 35° 46' N., whether escorted or not.

Mining of Suez Canal

Further mines were dropped in the Suez Canal today. RAHEB (transport) was mined this morning; all traffic except tugs and small craft has been stopped south of Ismailia.

Misuse of Italian Hospital Ships.

There is slight ground for belief that Italian hospital ships are being used for military purposes. Next time one is met at sea she is to be boarded and examined.

Malta Raid

Malta was raided last night by 3 large formations of JU 88's which bombed aerodromes and the Dockyard.

A hangar was damaged 3 aircraft destroyed on the ground and 4 Swordfish were damaged Enemy aircraft losses were 3 certain and one probable.

War Diary

5.2.1941.
Wednesday

SITUATION REPORT

East Indies

FORMIDABLE

Owing to the mining of the Suez Canal, FORMIDABLE and her screening destroyers have been ordered to Aden.

S/M Attack on B.N. 14.

Convoy B.N. 14 (troops and supplies for Suez) escorted by CALEDON, was attacked by a U-Boat p.m. 2/2 in the Red Sea.
3 underwater explosions were felt, but no damage was caused.

America & West Indies

Two Danish ships were seized today off Trinidad by VAN KINSBERGEN and HUSKY, by arrangement with the owner. Some disagreement occurred between the two warships as to who was the actual captor.

1824

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Rona. Minefield. Proposed amendment of Notice to Mariners.

Reference sinking of BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN In Rona Minefield. Consider Notice to Mariners 1768 (T) altogether insufficient warning to merchant ships. Instructions in preamble might well be overlooked by ships from Atlantic proceeding through Minches. Also Rescue Ships believing BOTUSK and EMMAPLEIN to have been torpedoed proceeded into minefield and were themselves fortunate in not having been sunk. Request that Notice to Mariners may be drastically amended to deal with these points.
(A.C.O.S. 1125/5 to Admty).

Ineffective control of Northern Waters.

Admiralty 1345/12/1. Owing to shortage of trawlers and shore-based air reconnaissance our control of Northern Waters is dangerously ineffective. It is therefore important that the number of ships passing the patrol should be strictly limited both on grounds of effective control and to conceal our grave weakness.

I have no objection to a total of 6 ships monthly, but it should be regarded as maximum.
(C.in C. H.F. 1909/5 to Admty).

Suspicious objects at night.

1. It must be impressed on all Commanding Officers and O.C.W's particularly in Convoys that any suspicious object sighted at night is to be illuminated and investigated immediately and a gun fired to draw attention to it.

2. Immediately enemy identity is established a report is to be made by W/T or R/T.
(C.in C. W.A. 2003/5).

Proposed Minefield.

Request early consideration to laying of Deep Minefield N.W. of Cape Wrath.
(C.in C. W.A. 2017/5). See Mining.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy. (Contd.)

H.F. and W.A. Command. Exchange of Five Destroyers.

In order to strengthen the destroyer force fitted with T.S.D.S. in the Home Fleet the five B.Class destroyers are to be relieved by ANTHONY, ACHATES, ARROW, ANTELOPE and ACTIVE from Western Approaches.

2. The latter are to have T.S.D.S. gear fitted and in working order.

3. C.in C. W.A. and C.in C. H.F. are requested to arrange the transfer. (1st S.L. 2135/5).

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. At 1130/5. (D.C.1221/5). At 2330/5. (D.C.0017/6).

Movements.

BLUEBELL. Am hove to off New Island owing to weather. (BLUEBELL 0246/5).

CACHALOT. Sailed escorted by CUTTY SARK at 0420 in accordance with S. 2's 1548/31/1. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0829/5).

My 1548/31. CUTTY SARK and CACHALOT delayed in Brodick Bay by stress of weather proceed at midnight. E.T.A. R/V 0830/7. (8.2. 1821/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

SALOPIAN. — Sailed SALOPIAN to R/V with WORCESTERSHIRE thence to Reykjavik and N.P.41 in accordance with F.O.C. N.P. 1856/2.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1314/5).

CIRCASSIA.
ATHELEMPRESS. — CIRCASSIA arrived 1215 ATHELEMPRESS arrived 1130.
(F.O.Iceland 1320/5).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Lines tonight.
5 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1531/5).

Submarines. — Positions at 0800/6 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1701/5).

NEPTUNE. — Arrived Scapa 1750.
(A.C.O.S. 1745/5).

FURIOUS
OTTAWA. — Arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1754/5).

Operations.

MINNIE DE LARRAINAGA. — Arrived tugs LADY BRASSEY, ARCADIA, GAMECOCK, Drifters NETSUKIS, YOUNG MON and S.S. MINNIE DE LARRINAGA.
(V.A.Dover, 0429/5).

Operation P.X. — Operation P.X. para.14 This will be done by aircraft of 16 Group.
(C.in C. Nore, 1101/5 to EREBUS, D.21).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Operation postponed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore, 1409/5).

Northern Patrol.

Cancel my 1115/20/1. Direction of patrols is to be south westward during daylight.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1145/5 to Northern Patrol.)

Operation N.C.

Will be carried out. Zero hour 0415/6.
(V.A.Dover 1514/5).

SUNFISH 2 attacks on M/V's.

SUNFISH reports. At 1353/30 fired 4 torpedoes at 4500 ton tanker in 58° 11 mins. N., 8° 32 mins. E., range 4000 yards. Attack unsuccessful. At 1151/2, fired 4 torpedoes at laden merchant vessel 2000 tons in 58°02' N., 6° 46' E., range 1200 yards. One torpedo ran on surface. Ship took avoiding action. Attack unsuccessful. SUNFISH unsuccessfully counter attacked by trawler.
(F.O.S. 1859/5).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2144/4. Add R1 - R2 - FUGLE.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0102/5).

My 2236/8/1. Patrol FUGLE amend positions as follows. Add Patrol R1. and R2. as follows:
(C.in C. Rosyth 0326/5 to Admty).
(See Summaries Folder).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

No flying by number 18 goup possible at present owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0920/5).

Your 0908/4 and C.in C. Western Approaches 0016/5. Regret weather unsuitable for flying this morning. Will carry out H.F.X. at 1400/5 if weather permits.
(R.A.N.A.S. Roborough (Plymouth) 1010/5 to Capt: D.5.)

A/S Air Escort for S.N.7. cancelled.

My 1006/4. A/S air escort for today cancelled, aircraft required for other duties. You will probably sight Sunderland, Whitleys, and Hudson proceeding to their patrol during day.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0826/5 to R.A.M.L.)

FURIOUS.

Intend flying off 2 Skuas to Prestwick at 1615. Please warn.
(FURIOUS 1351/5 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

Enemy Air Activity.

WAZIRISTAN (Bombed 2/2).

Aircraft report WAZIRISTAN in 061° 20'N., 011° 56'W at 1147/4, hove to, drifting downwind.
(C.in C. W.A. 0105/5 to BANDIT).

Request aircraft assistance to locate WAZIRISTAN. Am remaining in vicinity.
(BANDIT 1155/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

My 1735. Swell at present too heavy.
LORD MIDDLETON, making an attempt.
DOUGLAS 1931/5 to C.in C. H.F.)

DIONE II. (Bombed 5/2.)

Your 1630/4. No further information.
A/S escort in proceeding to stand by to assist you.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0145/5 to ASSURANCE, CAPE MARIATO).

BARON RENFREW. (Bombed 28/1).

TENACITY reports BARON RENFREW adrift at 0100, wind S.S.E. 08, conditions very adverse.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0157/5).

Report forthwith whether another tug required. ST. OLAVES will be returning for coal today Wednesday.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0415/5 to TENACITY).

Proceed with all despatch to assist TENACITY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0925/5 to SEAMAN).

Sailed SEAMAN.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1113/5).

Cancel my 0855. Proceed immediately to assist TENACITY.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1525/5).

Cancel my 1115. SEAMAN returned to Cambeltown for shelter.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1601/5).

Convoy C.E.24.

Convoy BOSOM being shadowed by one enemy A/C bearing 300° distance 12 miles, in 51° 23'N., 1 31'E.
(BLENCATHRA, 0926/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Help in 51° 26'N., 1° 27'E.
(Rosyth W/T 0940/5).

Fighter aircraft have been despatched.
(Nore W/T 0943/5).

BLENCATHRA reports that during attack by dive bombers on C.E.Convoy at about 0950 today one enemy aircraft was shot down by fighters and one by H.M.T. LADY PHILOMENA.
(C.in C. Nore 1521/5).

(Convoy C.E.24.) TOURMALINE Sunk.

Following has been made. It is possible that S.P's and C.B's from H.M.T. TOURMALINE sunk in 138° 3/4 mile Hope Buoy today may still be floating. All ships and shore authorities are to be warned to keep a good look out for these.
V.A.Dover is requested to take necessary action. 2236/5/2 ends.
(C.in C. Nore 2318/5).

Tugs off Dover.

Fighters have been sent to assistance of SERGEANT (Two tugs escorted by one trawler off Dover).
(Nore 1241/5).

Convoy F.N.1.

Help convoy RADIO in 51°50'N., 1° 35'E.
(SOUTHDOWN 1416/5).

No hits. Gone East.
(Convoy RADIO 1425/5).

Help in 52° 13'N., 1° 56'E.
(SOUTHDOWN 1745/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.8.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Fighter aircraft have been despatched.
(Nore 1756/5).

Help Convoy F.N.1. S. of Tyne in 52°19'N., 1° 56'E.
(Convoy 1817/5).

Ramsgate bombed.

At 2110/5th. 4 H.E. bombs were dropped in open land at Cliffsend Ramsgate. No casualties. Electric cable telephone wires and 8 bungalows slightly damaged.
(N.O.I.C. Ramsgate, 2352/5).

Mining.

A/C Minelaying.

AP/809/5/2. For tonight.
(H.Q.C.C. 1150/5 to 16 Group, N.Coates).

Humber.

Humber open. Movement restricted to swept Channel. Ships should arrive in the Afternoon as far as possible.
(F.O. Humber, 1234/5).

KONIGSBERG PREUSSEN.

(German) Reported (B.2) mined in Convoy off West Jutland on 1/2. Report unconfirmed.
(N.A.Stockholm 1644/5 to D.N.I.)

Spurn Point.

The following six mines exploded today. Spontaneous explosions observed at 2255/4 in 003° Spurn Point Lighthouse 0.4 miles and at 0047/5 in 120° Spurn Point Lighthouse 0.2 miles.
(F.O. Humber 2018/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Milford Haven. — Three ground mines self detonated (positions) (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1731/5).

Parachute Mines off Southwold. — 2 Parachute mines dropped in 52° 16'N., 1° 56'E. (SOUTHDOWN 1752/5).

My 1752. Second aircraft probably laid further mines 2 miles to northward. (SOUTHDOWN 1810/5).

My 1810/5. Aircraft probably laid mines to port of swept Channel somewhat to the northward and west of last position. (SOUTHDOWN 1830/5).

Report received that enemy plane has been dropping magnetic mines vicinity No.9 Buoy. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1858/5 to C.in C. Nore).

MENESTHEUS. — (Minelayer). My position 060° 23'N., 008° 03' W. In tow of AGAMEMNON. Main engine defect. Request tug to tow to port E.A. Intend to pass through 60° N., 008° 12'W. thence 143° to Butt of Lewis speed of advance 4 knots (MENESTHEUS 1800/5 to A.C.O.S.)

MENESTHEUS 1800/5. No tugs are available in Orkneys and Shetlands area. (A.C.O.S. 2008/5 to N.O.I.C. Greenock).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Liverpool. At 1355/4 and 1358/4 two Mines exploded by S.A. 2 miles S. 60° West Bar Light Vessel. Details.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1840/5).

My 1848/4 for 286° read 227° . Mine report to 1800/5. One detonated by S.A. gear 244° Bar Light Vessel 1 mile. One self detonated between Queens Channel Pillar Buoy and Bar Light Vessel.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2102/5).

Proposed new Deep Minefield. Request early consideration to laying a deep minefield (position), to cover northerly routed convoy track.
(C.in C. W.A. 2017/5 to Admty).

Operation E.A. 29. TEVIOT BANK is to remain at anchor at Methil until finally sailing.
TEVIOT BANK escorted by INTREPID and IMPULSIVE is to sail from Methil at 1600/6 and proceed to Humber so as to arrive before dark/7th.

D.20 is requested to sail INTREPID and IMPULSIVE so as to R/V with TEVIOT BANK accordingly.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2254/5).

Enemy Intelligence.

By D/F at 0008/5 S.T. bearings of enemy unit were as follows.

Fix indicates the Brest area. Frequently is usually associated with small craft, but not necessarily so.
(D.D.I.C. 0101/5.)

E/Boat. E/Boat encountered in position 15 miles South Saint Catherines Point.
(CHESTERFIELD 0215/5.)
(C.in C. Portsmouth 0336/5 and 0550/5 to VANOC, etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 5.2.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

HIPPER Cruiser.	German Cruiser ADMIRAL HIPPER Class last reported at Brest believed to have sailed. Reconnaissance shows that she is not in either Bordeaux, La Rochelle or Cherbourg. (F.O.C.N.A.S. 0937/5).
Transmission heard.	Transmissions heard on F.V. one at 1200/5 bearing 075° from 054° (20' or 48') N. 005° 27' (?) W. Transmissions were clearly audible but were too weak to show on ammeter. (WORCESTERSHIRE 1220/5 to F.O.C.N.P.)
	My 1220. Bearing at 1240 from 054° 55'N., 005° 28' W. was 090° very approx. and at 1405 from position 055° 12'N., 005° 20'W it was 170° . (WORCESTERSHIRE 1410/5).
Denmark.	Reports as to handing over of Danish T/B's and Minesweepers to Germany with N.I.D. comments. (N.A. Stockholm 1644/5 to D.N.I.)
	Cancel my 1410 as these were not genuine 66 centimetre transmissions. But my 1220 stands. (WORCESTERSHIRE 1709/5).
3 Destroyers.	In confirmation of telephone message. Three Destroyers bearing 120° close to French Coast at 1345, steering East. (V.A.Dover, 1406/5 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. ~~(Contd.)~~

Coastal Convoys.

F.S.S. 50 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0926/5).

C.W.25. My 2120/4. (Intend sailing C.W.25 Friday 7/2) Timetable at 7 knots. Care to be taken to keep convoy well closed up when passing through the Downs.
Escorts destroyers BLENCATHRA, BERKELEY.
M/S Trawlers ACACIA, ASH, DEODAR, WALNUT BAY.
M.B.B.V's HASLEMERE, ROEBUCK, FRATTON, ASTRAL, MAMMOUTH, GATINAIS.
M.L's 171, 116, 118, 119, 113, 120, 117, Chasseur 43. Will join convoy from Ramsgate and Dover. Number of M/V's in convoy 16.
(C.in C. Nore 1050/5).

O.B.282. Sailed PICOTTEE to overtake O.B.282.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1056/5).

F.N.1. Sailed 0920/5. 28 Ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1117/5).

E.N.68.
W.N.81. Act as additional A/A Escort to E.N.68 sailing at 0800/7. After passing Dunnet Head proceed to Scapa. A.C.O.S. is requested to sail GLEANE to join W.N.81 due Duncansby Head 1100/9. Code word for E.N.68 PADDLE and W.N.81 MATERIAL.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1107/5).

F.N. F.S. Cancellation. If an F.N. or F.S. convoy is cancelled, the sailing of the additional escort from Harwich will also automatically be cancelled and the escort programme remain otherwise unchanged.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1126/5).

F.N.1. List.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1142/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

10.M/V's. 10 Merchant Vessels. A/S Trawlers.
SAINT CATHAN, CAPE COMORIN from Needles to Dartmouth E.T.A.0900.
(C.in C. W.A. 1205/5).

F.S.2. All ships have arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thames. 1211/5).

O.B.281. Disperse in 020° 00'West.
(C.in C. W.A. 1229/5 to WITCH for Cmdre. MONTGOMERY, WILD SWAN.)

8 M/V's. Your 2004/3 and 1659/4 arrived.
≠ (8 M/V's and escort sailing 1700/4).
(C.in C. Portsmouth). (1238/5).

10 M/V's. Portsmouth night movements 5/6th.
A/S Trawlers ST. CATHAN, CAPE COMORIN, H.M.S. VULCAN and 10 M/V's Needles to Dartmouth, leave 1800/5 due 0900/6.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1323/5).

W.N.79. Convoy W.N.79 has scattered during snow storm my position 10 miles west of Dunnet Head with one ship one escort, waiting remainder which are not yet in sight. Visibility 10 miles.
(JASON 1330/5 to A.C.O.S.)

W.N.79. Dispersed during heavy snow-fall and storms awaiting Dunnet Head for their appearance with 3 ships, these 3 are now proceeding independently through Pentland Firth.
With your approval suggest I (wait?) for rest of convoy 30 ships (until arrival?).
(STELLA POLARIS, 1500/5 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 5.2.1941. Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.79 anchored Thurso Bay.
(STELLA POLARIS 1912/5 to A.C.O.S.)

C.E.25. Southend 5/2 arrival from Portsmouth with convoy C.E.25 H.M.T.LADY PHILOMENA, H.M.S. BRITTANY.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1415/5).

E.N.67. My position at 1410/5, 245° Buchan Ness 10 miles have lost touch with Commodore of E.N.67. I have six ships. Request instructions.
(ULLSWATER 1451/5 to C.in C. N.A.)

C.E.24. All Merchant ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1500/5).

F.N.1. List. (3 ships).
(N.C.S.O. Harwich, 1503/5).

F.S.4. Sailed 1430/5th February. 6 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1612/5).

W.N.79. 000° Dunnet Head 3 miles at 1425/5).
(A.C.O.S. 1618/5).

F.S.4. List and destinations.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1709/5).

F.N.99.
F.N.100. List and Destinations.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1711/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.1. — 16 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy all for North of Blyth except 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1712/5).

F.S.4. — 2 ships from Humber joining at 62 D Buoy. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1714/5) (C.in C. Rosyth 2155/5 to HASTINGS, WALLACE).

B.H.X.104. — Destinations. (D.T.D. 1807/5 to N.C.S.O. Aultbea and 1808/5 to F.O.I.C's Cardiff and Milford Haven).

E.N.U.66. — Arrived less BRITISH STATESMAN and EMPIRE CARIBU and PENTRIDGE HILL. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1830/5).

O.B.283. O.B.285. congestion. — 5 ships already in Loch Ewe and 7 more due ex E.N.67 have been crowded out of O.B.283 and unless otherwise ordered must be held until 13/2 for O.B. 285 when ships ex E.N.68 and E.N.69 may also cause further congestion and delay. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1948/5 to Admty).

F.N.99. — Five fishing trawlers from Humber sailed astern of F.N.99. (C.in C. Rosyth 2156/5 to HOLDERNESS, WOOLSTON.)

F.S.3. F.S.4. — Rosyth 5/2/1941. Departures. MEYNELL to overtake F.S.3. HASTINGS and WALLACE with F.S.4. (C.in C. Rosyth 2315/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

U/Boat Rocket alarm.

The use of two white rockets to denote an enemy submarine in the vicinity is to be extended to Coastal convoys and the restriction on firing white rockets for this purpose within 15 miles of the Coasts of the U.K. is withdrawn.

Admiralty message 631A, 24/12 and A.M.S.I. 279 should be amended accordingly.
(D.T.D. 2017/5 "A" Message).

Ocean Convoys.

O.G.52.

Sailed BELMONT and VANQUISHER escorts for O.G.C.52. and O.G.O.52 respectively.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1146/5).

Sailed SCARBOROUGH, GENTAIN, WHITEHALL and WINCHELSEA escorting O.G.52.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1805/5).

O.G.52. sailed 1750/5 10 ships 7½ knots Commodore E.W.Leir in S.S. ARDNOLA for Gibraltar 3 ships with kites.
(N.C.S.O. Liverpool, 1820/5).
List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1821/5).

H.X.108.

1531/5. S.S. BLACK TERN carrying aeroplanes.
(C.O.A.C. Halifax 1532/5 to Admty).

S.L.63.

Meet. (list)
(C.In C. W.A. 1841/5 to GEORGETOWN, ANTELOPE, ANTHONY, ACHATES, FLEETWOOD, HEATHER, LADY MADELINE, AYRESHIRE.)

H.G.52.

Extract from convoy sailing telegram as amended by Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1942/5 to C.in C. W.A. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

H.X.104. The attention of Commodores of H.X.104 and B.H.X. 104 is to be called to Q Z X 170, 253, 265.
(C.in C. W.A. 2303/5 to LINCOLN, CHURCHILL.)

Routes for Stragglers. Ships which, through inability to maintain convoy speed for any reason, straggle and lose touch with OB and OG convoys (A) before reaching 8° West if routed through the Minches or (B) before reaching 10° West if routed outside the Minches, are to return to a U.K. port. Such ships should proceed to Loch Ewe or Oban, whichever is the nearest, for further orders.

In view of the volume of traffic in the approaches to the North Channel from the Minches and from the Westward, these ships should burn dimmed navigation lights.

All ships in OB and OG Convoys are to be provided with the necessary return routes in special envelopes. The above is to be explained to Masters at Convoy Conferences.
(D.T.D. 1621/5 to N.O.S.O's.)

Invasion. Procedure for Ocean Convoys in event of invasion.
(D.T.D. 1926/5 to C.in C. W.A. etc.)
See Operations Volume.

S.L.S. and H.G. Convoys. Cancel my 1903/1/1 and 2026/31/1. Following scheme to assist junction of S.L.S. and H.G. convoys will be adopted commencing with S.L.S.65.
(D.T.D. 1937/5 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)
See Operations Volume.

Reports. In order that Admiralty can maintain full information regarding Ocean Convoys it is requested that all signals made to them or their escorts at sea may be repeated to Admiralty.
(D.T.D. 1946/5 to C.in C. S.A. F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

W.S.6. Escort arrangements.
(A.C.N.S.(F) 1624/5).

WAR DIARY. 5.2.1941. Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Raft and Wreckage Sighted. My 1725/4. Sighted damaged raft and scattered wreckage in 058° 24'N., 023° 08'W. at 1600. Wide area searched without further result. (CLARKIA 0600/5).

POLITICIAN. (British 7939 tons). Abandoning ship. Making water. Engineroom flooded. (Port Patrick Radio 0739/5).

Ashore south of Barra Island pounding heavily. (Plymouth W/T 0822/5).

Which side of Barra Islands, East or West. (ABELIA 1020/5 to Admty).

Cannot make West side Barra Island daylight will investigate. Distress indefinite did not state East or West. (ABELIA 1045/5).

Sailed SALVONIA to assist. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1113/5).

Your 1020. Last known position of POLITICIAN, South of Barra Island. Tug and A/S Trawler are closing. (C.in C. W.A. 1157/5 to ABELIA).

POLITICIAN Ashore Barra Sound. Engine room flooded. Salvage possible if assistance of tugs and pumps sent immediately. (WICK Radio 1306/5).

EVELYN ROSE. (A/P Trawler) Sailed 0940/5 from Sheerness, in tow of tug ST. CLEARS for Harland and Wolff Yard Wollwich. (? ST CLAVES) (Commodore, Sheerness, 1039/5).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

IOANNIS M. EMBIRICOS. (Greek 3734 tons) Bombed and disabled in 55° 41'N., 12° 26'W. approx. at 10 a.m. Have wounded.
(Valentia Radio 1123/5) (IOANNIS M. EMBIRICOS 1218/5).

If contact has not been made with DIONE II proceed to assistance of JOANNIS M. EMBIRICOS.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1257/5 to ASSURANCE, CAPE MARIATO).

PAYNTER. (A/S Trawler.) Reports having been in collision with unknown vessel at 0310/30/1 in 55° 11'N., 05° 26'W.

PAYNTER slightly damaged but proceeding accordingly to schedule
(N.O.I.C. Leith 1544/5).

MERCHANT ROYAL. (British 5008 tons). Require immediate assistance off Duncansby Head.
(MERCHANT ROYAL, Reed. Scapa 1625/5).

Your 1644. I intercepted the S.O.S. and proceeded at 16.45. E.T.A. Duncansby Head 1730. Convoy scattered during snow and it is believed 3 ships passed through Pentland Firth. Escorts are sending remainder when found into Thurso Bay.
(JASON 1709/5 to A.C.O.S.)

Proceed to assistance of MERCHANT ROYAL 5 miles North West of Duncansby Head. Steering gear out of action. Ship was in convoy W.N.74 and 2 trawlers. JASON has been ordered to close by A.C.O.S.
(C.in C. H.F. 1806/5 to AURORA, JASON).

MERCHANT ROYAL has made temporary repairs to sterring gear and is steering south east slowly. Weather at present too rough to take her in tow. Her position is 1550 Duncansby Head 5 miles.
(AURORA 2103/5 to A.C.O.S.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

5.2.1941.
Wednesday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

FAME.	Arrived Sheerness for Chatham 1935/5 in tow of tugs. (C.in C. Nore, 2140/5).
EMPIRE BREEZE.	(British 7960 tons). Ashore. (Cullercoates Radio. Recd. 2217/5).
	Ashore Bondicar Rocks. Needs immediate assistance. (Cullercoates Radio 2324/5).
ALBERT C.FIELD.	(British 1764 tons). Ashore south of Flamborough. Requires immediate assistance. (Humber Radio 2248/5).

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

AJAX
PONCELET
repatriees.

Exchange of British Service personnel and merchant seamen in French Africa against survivors of French S/M's AJAX and PONCELET seems likely to succeed but French Admiralty have shown anxiety about C.O. of PONCELET, Lieut. Cmdr. De. Saussine, who is they understand in U.K. What shall I reply? (N.A. Madrid, 1047/5, to Admty.)

North Atlantic.

S.L.O.I.

Gibraltar 0/2, 0930, arrival DUNEDIN JONQUIL, GERANIUM, VELOX, VIDETTE, escorting steamships KENYA and SOBIESKY. (S.O.I. Gib., 0936/5, to Admty etc.)

TUNA
OTUS.

Position of submarines at 0800/6, and movements for 24 hours. TUNA on patrol off Ponta Delgada. OTUS 039° 45' N. 024° west proceeding on the surface to 041° north 022°, 30' west thence course 70° speed 10 knots. (F.O.C.N.A.,1000/6.)

Air Report.

X.0811. Daily Summary Operations. (200 Group, 1700/5.)

GRETE
ROMO.

Danish S.S. GRETE and ROMO at Valencia, now expected to agree secretly to be captured. Probably sail in ten days or two weeks. If necessary could you stage capture of both off Valencia or if not possible off Cartagena outside territorial waters? First ship has little coal and may have to be towed to Gibraltar. (N.A Madrid 1014/5, to S.O.I., Gibraltar.)

/SANTAREM.....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. Contd.

SANZARRM, suspicious passenger.

S.S. SANTARRM (Brazilian) reported sailed from Lisbon at 0430/5, for South America. Frau Ochmeeberg, 3rd class passenger on board believed to be carrying mails which are to be removed if ship is encountered. (F.O.C.N.A., 2317/5, to N.A. Stn.) Cancelled by D.N.P.D., 1807/6, Sec 6/1.

South Atlantic.

START POINT.

Overdue shipping. START POINT Clyde departure 11/1 due Freetown 1/2 has not arrived. (S.O.I.Freetown, 0004/5.)

Force Z.

F.O.C.N.A.'s 1633/4. Last position Q, received by C. in C. South Atlantic was 035° 40' N. 022° 40' W., in C. in C. W.A.'s 1049/23/1. Last time of arrival 0700 B.S.T. 5/2 in C. in C. W.A. 1328/31/1. Request early information of alteration to this information as position given by F.O.C.N.A, conflicts with that given by C. in C. W.A. C.S.1, has my 1159/3 and my 1255/3. (C. in C. S.A.,1047R/6, to C. in C. W.A.,Admty.)

Your 1047/5, estimated position of Force Z at 1200 Zone plus 1, 7/2,will be 28° 00' N. 20° 30' W, Position Q is 35° 40' N, 22° 40' W. (E.C.D.(F) 1943/5,to C. in C.S.A.)

/Santos.....

War Diary

5.2.1941.
Wednesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

South Atlantic-Contd.

Santos Enemy Shipping. DRESDEN BARITONGA.	All Axis and Danish ships in Santos making preparations for departure. On 4/2 I informed Brazillian Chief of Naval Staff that this activity is probably connected with ADMIRAL SCHEER presence between Natal and Dakar and stressed our belief that DRESDEN and BARITONGA whose internment was requested eleven to twelve months ago are supply ships (N.A. Monte Video, 1316/5, S.O.I., Monte Video, 1314Z/5 to Admty., S.O.I. Freetown, 2043Z/5 to Admty.)
SS AFRICA MARU	My 1705/4. Union Government prepared to hold ship 2 days longer but are asking reason. Ship cannot now reach port mentioned in C. in C., East Indies' 0804/2 in time to interfere even if sailing at once and direct. (S.O.I. Capetown, 1230/5 to Admty.)
TUNISIA LISBETH MADURA	My 1113/3. Delete TUNISIA LISBETH and MADURA which have arrived at Freetown. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1324/5)
Convoy W.S. 6.	Your 0009/4. Re escort by CATHAY, CANTON or CHITRAL. Escort arrangements. (D.O.D. (P) to C. in C's S.A. E.I., H.F., 1624/5) (D.O.D. (P) 1834/5 to C. in C., S.A.,) See Operations Volume.
EMPRESS OF CANADA Defect	H.M.T. EMPRESS OF CANADA sailed for U.K. direct 5/2. Paravane gear now out of action unable to repair owing to congestion in the port. Delayed owing to

/engine.....

MOST SECRET.

S. P. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

EMPRESS OF CANADA

engine repairs 26 hours and 12 hours on account of weather. Following passengers transferred to STRATHALLAN. (S.S.T.O. Capetown, 1637/5, to Admty.)

Employment of "Vees".

Admiralty's C138/2 (D) 2. When allocating Vees request consideration may be given to following. Most important shall have transmission and reception owing to difficulty in using L.F. on South Atlantic Station. Also suitability for service in tropics with sufficient fans and refrigeration. Endurance an important question. (C. in C.S.A. 1923K/5, to F.O.C.S.A.)

ALCANTARA.
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

My 1031/22, to R.A.S.A.D. Intended ALCANTARA carries out working up and gunnery practices Freetown for approximately ten days then proceeds to S.A. Division, S.A.Station, to relieve QUEEN OF BERMUDA probably arriving (date) (C. in C. S.A, 2111K/5, to R.A.S.A.D.)

CAPETOWN CASTLE.

My 1744/27/1 reads "CAPETOWN CASTLE" arriving Durban in W.S.S.R. reports that she has on board approximately 1000 tons maize which could not be discharged during turn-round in U.K., and which Master considers important should be discharged in South Africa. Request confirmation that discharge can be carried out during stay of convoy in Durban and if so that you arrange accordingly".
2. For Duban read Capetown.
3. Request report in view of 1321/2, from C. in C. S.A.(D. of S.T. 2119/5, to N.O.I.C. Capetown.) Reply See 1155/7.

/EURYLOCHUS.....

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

EURYLOCHUS, (sunk 29/1.), details of raider.

Your 0054/1/2. BULOLO arrived Freetown 5/2. Report on evidence received from survivors of EURYLOCHUS as follows - no definite conclusion possible from evidence received but probable pocket battleship accompanied by armed merchant raider. One ship was very much larger than other. (Evidence on specific points.)Both ships fired, EURYLOCHUS was hit twelve times by large ship and number of times by smaller ship, unlikely that heavy armament was used possibly secondary armament by large ship and similar by small ship.(C. in C. S.A., 2305/3, to Admty.)

Darkening ship.

Request your remarks on para. 1 of C. in C. East Indies 0658/3, and whether you consider that in Approaches to Durban and to the Cape from the Eastward on the South Atlantic Station sailing of ships fully darkened is desirable or whether any limit from either port should be laid down. (C. in C. S.A., 2355/5, to N.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

Mediterranean.

Tunis, use of territorial waters.

South of Lat. 35° 46' North, Tunisian Territorial Waters may be violated.
(a) by submarines and surface ships for the purpose of attacking at sight any vessel identified as enemy.
(b) by aircraft for the purpose of attacking at sight any vessel of whose enemy character you are satisfied. Particularly desired to avoid interference with bona fide French Coastal traffic, and for this reason:-
(a) Tunisian Territorial Waters North of Lat.35° 46' North must be respected.
(b) Mines should NOT be laid in Tunisian Territorial Waters.
(1. S.L. 0202/5, to C. in C. Med.,etc.)

Operation B.S. para. 23 to 26 and Admiralty 0202/5. Presume S/Ms and A/C can now sink at sight in all Central Mediterranean Waters South

/of Latitude.....

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 41.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

of latitude 035° 46' North any ship whose enemy character is established whether those vessels are escorted or not.(V.A. Malta, 1015/5, to C. in C. Med.)

Your 1015/5. Yes.(C. in C. Med., 1314/5.) Informing S/M's on Patrol. (V.A. Malta, 1753/5.)

Reference V.A. Malta's 1015/5. South of latitude 35° 46' N every enemy merchant ship may until further orders be assumed to be a military transport or auxiliary and sunk at sight. (Hd. of M., 2341/5, to C. in C. Med., V.A. Malta, A.O.C., Med.)

Enemy Unit.

P.c.and s. of enemy unit at 0905, G.M.T. was 033° 04' N. 013° 26' E. 270° 10' knots. (V.A.Malta, 1033/5, to S/M's on Patrol.)

Suez Canal Mines.

Your 1443/4. Have sufficient watchers been detailed to watch the Canal so that the position of every mine which is laid is accurately known?(1st S.L. 1107/5, to S.E.N.O. Suez Canal.) Reply. See 1317/6.

Malta Air Raid.

Operational Summary No. 240 up to 1200 hrs. 5.2.41. Malta. Night 4/5th, 3 large formations Ju.88's bombed Halfar, Luqa, Kalafrana, and dockyard, destroying 1 hangar at Luqa and damaging buildings there and at Halfar. 1 Gladiator and Swordfish destroyed on ground but no casualties.

/3 Ju. 88's.....

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Malta
Air
Raid.

Mediterranean Contd.
3 Ju.88's destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, by our fighters and A.A. defences.(F.O.A.A.F., M.E.,1146/5.)

War
Material
for Turkey.

Your 1343/1.Re additional war material for Turks.(M.A.,Angora, 1221/5. to Admty.)

RANEE
Mined,
Suez.
Canal.

My 1303/4. Transport RANEE mined in canal at K.m.63, 0365/5. Ship is aground aft on African side bow waterborne in middle of canal. Last mine exploded in this section was p.m./1, since when section has been repeatedly swept and 23 ships have passed in safety. All traffic except tugs and small craft has been stopped south of Ismailia. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal,1257/5, to Admty, etc.)

Dive-Bomber
Attacks.
ILLUSTRIOUS
SOUTHAMPTON.

In view of measures taken to fit F.A.C.'s in Mediterranean Fleet aircraft carriers it would be appreciated if the following further information with regard to D/B. attacks on ILLUSTRIOUS and SOUTHAMPTON could be forwarded.(D.T.S.D. 1330/5, to C. in C. Med.)

Genoa,
reported
closing.

Have you any information concerning the reported closing of the port of Genoa, to all commercial traffic? It is believed port has been closed for about a week and Swiss Authorities persist in this opinion despite Italian denials. (D.N.I. 1428/5, to M.A.'s Madrid, Lisbon.)

Air Report.

Operational Summary. 240 up to 1200 hours 5/2/41. (Egypt and Sudan) No naval items.(M.E.,R.A.F.,M.E.,1455/5.)

/Malta Air.....

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Malta Air Raid Damage.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 hours 3/2. All times G.M.T.Ref. my I.08. 4/2. They don't like us. Assessment Government property damaged completed as follows:- (details) Reconnaissance Reports.(R.A.F. Med., 1710/5.)

UPRIGHT
UTMOST
USK
TRUANT
TETRARCH.

Disposition. Operation 3.3, appendix one two - 033° 32' 012° (corrupt group) - 333° - 31' - 033° - 60 273 submarines are not to be attacked unless their hostile identity is unquestionably proved. (Capt. S.1, 1855/3, to C/S's on Patrol.)

FORMIDABLE.

C. in C. Med. 2207/3. See Operations Volume - East Indies.

Mines, Suez Canal.

Following information so far collected concerning mines in canal area. (details.)

14 mines accounted for. 7 or 8 exploded with red polarity by LL and D.M.S., sweep after covering water many times. The first mines dropped 30/1, successively mined 3rd 4th and 5th/2. (C. in C. Med., 2315/3, to Admty.)
S/B NO Suez Canal Area 1707/5th Secret Section.

East Indies.

CALCUTTA.

CARLISLE.

Admty. 0130/2, and my 0812/2. No employment and refit. (C. in C. E.I., 0708Z/5 to Admty.) See Operations Volume.

/Enemy.....

MOST SECRET.

E. A. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Enemy Unit.	Position of German surface unit by D/F on 12700 kc/s at 1643 G.M.T./4, was within 150 miles of position 003° South 048° East. 8 stations took bearings. (C. in C. E.I., 0723Z/5, to E. I. Sqdn.)
BANKURA.) BAMORA.) BARPETA.) BARJORA.)	Dates of arrival Aden. (S.O.T.O. India, 0815/5, to C. in C. E.I.)
Air Strength.	Re scale of Air Attack on Eastern India. (Air H.Q., India, to Air Ministry, 0948/5.)
B.M.14.	Convoy arrival telegram B.M. 14 Port Sudan portion arrived 5/2, OBSERVER ALCYONE ELPIS KNOSVIKEN.(N.O.I.C.Port Sudan, 1156Z/5, to Admty.)
B.S.14.	Convoy sailing telegram (1) B.S.14, Port Sudan, portion, (2) 0300Z/5.(3) Port Sudan 060 deg. 30 miles 0800Z/5. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 1200Z/5.)
F.A.A. on the Station.	C. in C. E.I. 1256Z/5. See Operations Volume.
FORMIDABLE.	Your 1926/4. (Whether FORMIDABLE proceed. Re. (C. in C. Med. 1610/5, to C. in C. E. Indies.)
FORMIDABLE. JUNO, GRIFFIN.	FORMIDABLE JUNO and GRIFFIN have been ordered to Aden. (C. in C. E.I, 1740Z/5, to Admty. Date of FORMIDABLE passing Canal, and proposed date of her leaving Aden. (C. in C. Med. to C. in C. E.I., 2207/5.) See Operations Volume.

/Suez Canal.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

Suez Canal Mines.

Your 2203 Feb. 4th. Unexploded mines type D. Existence of mines not known. Mine laid about 0500/ 30/1. Area swept 2/2 at 0830 by one D.W.I.4 run red, at 1245 by two D.W.I.5. run blue, at 1415 by two D.W.I.5 run red.
(1707/5 S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area).

B.N.14. attacked by U/B, 2/2.

Ref. Bari radio reports claiming Submarine obtained seven hits on Red Sea Convoy on 3/2, CALEDON reports at least three underwater explosions felt between 2210 and 2230z/2. No damage no splashes. All ships B.N.14 mustered. Position was about C16° North. Intend not to deny Italian reports as it is better they should not learn attacks must be pressed home. BALUCHISTAN straggled from B.N.14. Last seen 1600z/3. (C. in C. E.I.,1604z/5, to Admty.)

Force T. SHROPSHIRE.

My 1016/3. Force T expects to arrive Mombasa 0600Z/9. SHROPSHIRE has left a total of 60 ratings sick at Durban. (C. in C.E.I., 2006Z/5, to Admty etc.-)

Operations "Canvas" "Composition".

Request I may now use Force "X" for either or both operations "CANVAS" and "COMPOSITION."(C. in C. E.I.,2014Z/5, to Admty.)

America & West Indies.

VAN KINSBERGEN.

Leave Trinidad p.m./6, and visit St. Martin and St. Eustatius, proceeding thence to Port Castries St. Lucia so as to arrive 12/2. Then await further orders.(C. in C.A.W.I., 1022/5. to VAN KINSBERGEN.)

/CHRISTIAN.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. Contd.

CHRISTIAN HOLM SCANDIA.	Danish tankers. Intercepted by VAN KINSBERGEN a.m./5, and being taken to Trinidad in prize. (D.O.R., 6/2.)
H.X.103.	Your 1936/4. Commodore H.X.103 in receipt of following 4 messages. (C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1125/5, to Admty.)
PONTADOC.	In St. John N.B. due to sail shortly for Sierra Leone. Crew have given notice that they wish to be discharged and will not sail in ship. Request early information whether any action can be taken under existing British Regulations. (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1126/5, to Admty.)
Route to America.	Your 1807/3, (Alternative route to America.) concur. (D.T.D.1206/5, to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)
Troop Transport.	Re escort by ROYAL SOVEREIGN and RAMILLIES. (D.O.D.(H), 1249/5, to R.A.3.B.3), and reply B.S.3., 1747/5.) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

ITHAKA. Arrived fron Istanbul, transit goods for Germany (Vice Consul, Varna, 1050/5.)

SALZBURG. Left Varna in ballast, Turkish port. (Vice Consul, Varna, 1050/5.)

ALTMARK. Arrived Trondhjem with aviation petrol from Mexico, end of December in damaged condition and still present 16/1. One U-boat had been in port. (B.2.) (N.A. Stockholm 1117/5.)

TARONGA. Oslo, Norway - Stavanger Fjord reported 1/2, lying alongside, TARONGA at Akers Yard near Piperviken fitting out as troop transport. 'B.3.)(N.A.Stockholm 1117/5.)

ARKADIA. Istanbul 4/2, arrivals. German ARKADIA. (N.C.B.O. Galatz, 1331/5.)

DRESDEN. Mentioned in connection with Activity at Santos. (N.A. Monte Video, 1216/5), See South Atlantic.

PLUS. PLUS sailed from Vigo on Tuesday night. (D.D.I.C. 2257/5, to F.O.C.N.A, etc.)

ERNA
OLDENBURG. (Left Vigo night of 26/1, and ran aground at Marin early on 27/1.) Now reported afloat and being pumped out. Spanish colours painted on her sides on leaving Vigo now removed. (D.S.519.)

PORTLAND. (Left Talcahuano, Chile, 30/1.) Has not been located. Reported to have 14 days fuel only, but this is not definite. (D.S.519.)

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

GIULIO.
GIORDANI.

10,700 tons, tanker, reported to have struck a mine when entering Taranto last June necessitating her being in dock for 2 months. Is now said to be at Taranto. (D.S.519.)

Reported sinkings of Italian ships in Adriatic (unnamed)(D.S.519.)

MAYA.

Arrived Varna from Batoum with 5,000 tons gas oil for Germany. (V.Consul, Varna, 1050/5.)

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Your 2104/31, your 1854/1 and my 2357/1 Total number to be repatriated is 82. Intend to send them to Casablanca in steamship ANGOLA due Freetown about 6/2, if accommodation is available. (C. in C. S.A.,1245N/5, to Admty.)

SONTAY,
JEAN L.D.

On receipt of your 1051/4, I requested High Commr. to approach Union Govt., to release ship for passage to Simonstown escorted by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA. He was informed that matter was subjudice. He now informs me that Union Govt. are taking powers which will enable them to requisition this ship as well as JEAN L.D.in about two days for use by U.K. Authorities. Hoped they will then remove troops invalids and any members of crew not prepared to serve. Essential to remove Captain, 2nd. Officer, W/T Officer, and O.C. troops before sailing to avoid grave danger of scuttling. If this course is adopted escort by SAVORGNAN DE BRAZZA will be unnecessary. Message No.148, from High Commr. to Dominions Office refers. (N.O.I.C. Simonstown,1839/5, to Admty.)

/JEAN L.D.....

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

JEAN L.D., assurance from Boarding Officer.

Your 2047/31/1. From Boarding Officer's report it is learned that in order to overcome the objection of the Master of JEAN L.D., obtain his assistance in steaming his ship, and clear him in the eyes of his company and Vichy Govt., the Boarding Officer at the Master's request, gave him a signed statement, declaring on behalf of his Captain that JEAN L.D. would not be unnecessarily delayed at Capetown. Master gave the Boarding Officer the following written statement. "Having received from the Captain of H.M. Cruiser that my ship will not be unduly delayed at Capetown after her visit I promised to sail her to that Port". This action by the Boarding Officer was not authorised by Captain of NORFOLK who would not have authorised any written guarantee in such circumstances. Instructions will be issued on this point. (C. in C. S.A., 2047N/5, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

5. 2. 1941.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.	
PIZARRO. (torpedoed 31/1.)	British, 1367 tons, in ballast from London to Gibraltar and Seville, reported torpedoed 31/1 in ? 49.30 N., 19-40 W. Six survivors including Master landed Lisbon 5/2, from MACBRAE, remaining 23 not yet accounted for. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1715/5.)(D.S.521.)
EMPIRE CITIZEN (torpedoed 3/2.)	5 raft survivors of EMPIRE CITIZEN, one serious cot case picked up in position 058° 20' N, 021° 48' W, report ship sunk and one fully equipped lifeboat with 30 survivors including 2 women making for nearest land. Am continuing search to Eastward my position 058° 21' N. 020° 03',W, (CLARKIA, 1800/5, to C. in C. W.A.) Ship now presumed to have sunk. (D.S. 519.)
	Red Sea.
2210/2.	Attack on Convoy B.N.14, 2210/2, to 2230Z/2. No hits or damage. (C. in C. E.I., 1804Z/3.) See East Indies.
S/M's Reported.	Submarine reported observed at 2000/4, in position 064° 10' N, 022 40' W. Graded B.4. (F.O.Iceland, 1048/5, to Admty, and 1138/5, to CIRCASSIA.)
	There is a U/B within 60 miles of 59° N. 19° W, which may make a signal shortly after noon B.S.T. on 7040 kcs. (D.D.I.C. 1057/5 to PORPOISE.)

/Source.....

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN-Contd.

29/12 St Jean de Luz	Source regarded as reliable by Military Attache reports Italian Submarine entered St Jean de Luz 29/12 under escort of two small Italian armed vessels. S/M left within 24 hours ? (for Bayonne) to effect repairs. Informant stated was down by stern had list to port and was pitted with bullet holes. (C. 3.) (N.A.Madrid, 1619/5 to D.N.I.)
Estimated U-Boat Dispositions	German 1 within 60 miles of 60° N., 10° W or between this position and Butt of Lewis No direct evidence. 1 within 60 miles of 59° N., 19° W. 1 within 60 miles of 58° 30' N., 23° W 1 within 60 miles of 56° 30' N., 19° 30' W 1 within 40 miles of 55° 30' 21° W., 1 near Azores. Italian 1 within 60 miles of 54° N., 19° W (D.D.I.C. 1335/5)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

KING GEORGE V arrived at Scapa this afternoon

An unknown Enemy unit, possibly a surface craft, was located by D/F at 0856 this morning in 48° N., 25° W., near which position the Dutch PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK had been detained by MANISTEE at 2100 last night.

The Germans claim in a broadcast that an E-Boat sank SS ANGULARITY (501 tons) The ship sailed in F.N. 101 and has not arrived.

British Air Activity

Patrols in the southern half of the North Sea were curtailed today by bad weather. Coastal Command aircraft covered the coast of Norway south of Trondheim but observed nothing of importance All convoys in the N.W. Approaches were escorted during daylight today. All night patrols and offensive operations by Coastal Command were cancelled owing to bad weather; for the same reason Bomber Command carried out no operations last night or today.

Enemy Air Activity

There was very considerable Air activity in the Thames Estuary last night, a series of illuminating Flares being dropped over the North Kent Coast eastwards from the Swale as though a survey of the coast-line was being carried out; and unknown objects, either Mines or Incendiary Bombs, were dropped near the Thames and Medway Gates.

No attacks on shipping are reported.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Minelaying on a considerably increased scale was carried out last night by enemy aircraft off the Humber, Thames Estuary, East Anglia and Yorkshire coast. Estimated 90 minelayers employed.

At Liverpool precautions are still required when entering the port; in the Bristol Channel it was ordered this evening that no ships are to leave Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff, or Barry until further orders and Swansea only if westbound; and it was decided this morning that the Humber should in future be closed daily from sunset until noon in view of the mining situation.

Shipping and Convoys

Steps to overcome delays in the operation of our limited number of tankers are being taken, and by agreement with the Petroleum Board discharges of tankers continues by night and in many places until enemy aircraft are engaged by gunfire.

SS SESOSTRIS which was missing from Convoy S.C. 19 after the U-Boat attacks on 29/1 is overdue and is presumed lost.

South Atlantic

DELHI has engine defects which reduce her maximum speed (in serious emergency) to about 20 knots.

MOST SECRET

War Diary.

6.2.1941.
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean

Suez Canal

In addition to magnetic mines it is reported that the enemy have dropped in the Canal a new type of contact mine specially designed for use in the Canal.

2 minesweeping hoppers were mined today with some loss of life. Ships up to 8000 tons can pass the obstructions, but all movement in the canal except sweepers is stopped south of Lake Timsah.

Satisfactory arrangements for Canal watching have been made, and the A.A. defence of Suez is being improved. The 142nd Minesweeping Group have arrived at Suez from U.K. at this critical juncture, with their D.G.coils completely rotted; as a result the vessels cannot be used until their D.G. equipment has been renewed.

C. in C., Med. has asked for the urgent despatch of 2 D.W.I. Wellington aircraft.

Force H.

S.O.Force H in RENOWN left Gibraltar this afternoon with MALAYA, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD and 10 destroyers for operations against Genoa.

Operation M.C. 7.

C. in C., Mediterranean reports that Operation M.C. 7 (Diversion to assist operation "Result") was completed without incident. No enemy forces were sighted nor was the Fleet attacked although it was sighted and reported by an aircraft at 0830/2.

Air Raid on Malta

3 enemy aircraft bombed the aerodromes from 1810 to 2035, causing no damage or casualties.

Sollum

Sollum Harbour is still mined.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

6.2.1941
Thursday

SITUATION REPORT

U-Boat Campaign

4 survivors from tanker BRITISH PREMIER, torpedoed on 24/12 off the West Coast of Africa, have been rescued after being in a small open boat for 41 days and after 25 days without food.

135

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Rona Minefield. Proposed Amendment of Notice to Mariners.

A.C.O.S. 1125/5/2. Propose Notice to Mariners No. 1768 (T) of 1940 be amended to inform ships that it is dangerous to pass North and east of line joining Vestrahorn (Iceland) Sulisker and Brough of Birsay (Orkneys).
(C.in C. H.F. 1493/6 to Admty).

Loch Ryan Examination anchorage.

My 1441/4. Stranraer Loch Ryan. Examination anchorage established. Position.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1503/6 to Admty).

Operational Control of Aircraft.

Iceland letter 9/50/40 of 30/12/40 and A.C.O.S. letter 79/OS 178 of 23/1/41. Group Captain R.A.F. is under G.O.C. and entirely controlled by him. A/C envisaged in A.M. 1739/25/1. will presumably be under Group Captain and therefore under G.O.C. Unless control of A/C operating over sea is under F.O.I.C. there can be no certainty that they will be available when and where required or that their movements will be reported to C.in C.
(F.O.Iceland, 1741/6 to Admty).

Defence of U.K.

Green Flares off Yarmouth.

Re confusion caused.
(C.in C. Nore 0030/6 to Admty).

Following has been made to H.Q.F.C.

Your A.254 5/2. Enquiry has been made of F.O.I.C. Yarmouth and nothing is known of the origin of these signals. 0022. Ends.
(C.in C. Nore 0038/6 to Admty).

DSLUOE.

At 1130/6.
(D.C.1208/6).
At 2330/6.
(D.C.2345/6 and 0905/7).

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom. (Contd.)

Oban. Proposed alteration of nets. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1644/6 to Admty).

Movements.

O.21. MINERVE. During your passage to Dundee the hostile identity of any submarine encountered must be established beyond doubt before it is attacked.
(S.O. 0941/6 to O.21 and MINERVE).

CIRCASSIA. Your 1930/5. Proceed direct to Liverpool.
(F.O.C.N.P. 1418/6 to CIRCASSIA).

Northern Patrol. Trawler lines tonight.
3 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1551/6).

Submarines. Positions, at 0800/7 and movements, following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1719/6).

Holyhead and Portsmouth. S/M bombing Restrictions. Ops. 169 6/2.
Institute total S.B.R. Holyhead Sanctuary from 0830 to 1730 daily from 7/2 to 9/2 incl: and Portsmouth Sanctuary from 0730/7 to 1130/7.
(H.Q.C.C. 1840/6).

Information for CACHALOT. Situation at 2000 of ARROW and convoy and of HAVELOCK and convoy.
(S.O. 1847/6 to CACHALOT).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK. — (Dutch 1288 tons) Detained at 2100 in 47° 25'N., 22° 48'W. Papers suspicious. Keeping in company to join her up with convoy S.L.S. 65 at 1200/6. (MANISTEE 0210/6 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Operation P.X. — Postponed a further 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore 1121/6).

Western Channel. Patrol. — On conclusion of practices tonight KELLY KASHMIR and KIPLING are to patrol between longitude Start Point and Lizard Head returning Plymouth at 1000/7. Object to cover shipping in Channel. (C.in C. W.A. 1153/6).

Patrol O. — Carry out O tomorrow night instead of tonight. (C.in C. Nore 1407/6 to D.16).

British Air Activity.

Air Searches. — Today. (C.in C. Rosyth 0638/6).

Air Rescue Craft in Dover Area. Proposed increase. — Desirable to concentrate more rescue craft in Dover area. Request one each be sent, Lerwick, Orkneys, Aberdeen, Blyth, Humber and that consideration may be given to transference of an M.L.Flotilla from the West (Air Ministry 1745/6 to Admty).

Squadrons 804 and 255. — Re Movements. (5th S.L. 1843/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

IOANNIS M. EMBIRICOS. (Bombed 5/2).

Standing by in 056° 15'N., 011° 56'W. Timber laden. Floating well. Request tugs. 15 men remaining on board. Picked up boat with Master and 18 officers and men 2 wounded.
(LADY MADELEINE 0025/6).

Steamer settled by stern. Have taken off remainder of crew 30 all told. One man seriously injured, required medical assistance. PICOTTEE has 4. Am standing by awaiting tug. A/S out of action.
(LADY MADELEINE 1112/6).

056° 20'N., 011° 20'W. requested by LADY MADELEINE to stand by whilst picking up survivors. Have 4 survivors on board remainder on board LADY MADELEINE. Ship towable. No sign of tug. Am proceeding to join convoy.
(PICOTTEE 1123/6).

Proceeding Londonderry with seriously wounded leaving NORTHERN GEM with Derelict. E.T.A. 0930 7th.
(LADY MADELEINE 1622/6).

WAZIRISTAN (Bombed 2/2.)

Unless ship with D/F or air escort is sent it is improbable that Tug BANDIT will R/V LORD MIDDLETON tow parted by swell. Will attempt to tow at daylight if weather continues to moderate. No check on position obtainable since 1600/4. Must leave 2000 tonight for fuel.
(DOUGLAS 0527/6 to C.in C. H.F.)

DOUGLAS 0527/6. Proposed DOUGLAS refuel in Faroes tonight leaving LORD MIDDLETON in charge of WAZIRISTAN and rejoin her as soon as possible.
(A.C.O.S. 1031/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

A.C.O.S. 1031/6. DOUGLAS is to comply unless otherwise ordered by C.in C. W.A. DOUGLAS has now joined W.A. Command.
(C.in C. H.F. 1352/6 to DOUGLAS).

Proceed with WAZARISTAN to Kirkwall DOUGLAS and MARAUDER join and remain with WAZIRISTAN till further orders.
(A.C.O.S. 1721/6 to BANDIT).

My 1031/6. Oil from WAR PINDARI in Skuale Fiord. You should pass through Skopen Fiord keeping between 61° 45'N., and 62° 18'N. delaying your arrival till after daylight if necessary.
(A.C.O.S. 1842/6 to DOUGLAS).

BANDIT has WAZIRISTAN in tow, speed 8 knots. LORD MIDDLETON ordered to return to patrol. Reference C.in C. H.F. 1352/6, A.C.O.S's 1031/6 not received. WAZIRISTAN seaworthy floating light but 30 feet of water in engine room and boiler room. Request instructions. Position 61° 38'N., 10° 57'E.
(DOUGLAS 1930/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1930/6. XTX. LORD MIDDLETON has been ordered by S.O.Trawlers N.P. to rejoin Thursday. When she arrives comply with my 1031/6.
(A.C.O.S. 2258/6 to DOUGLAS.)

Thames Estuary.

Summary of aircraft activity in Thames Estuary for night of 5/6 Feb.
(S.O. T.L.D.F. 1306/6 to C.in C. Nore).

Attack of 5/2 on C.E.24.

Your 1521/5. Request information as to number of Dive-Bombers which attacked C.E. Convoy at 0950/5 and confirmation that these aircraft were JU. 87's.
(D.D.I.C. 1441/6 to C.in C. Nore).

MOST SECRET.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Your 1441/6. BLENCATHRA reports approx. 12 Aircraft attacked the convoy and that they were JU.87's.
(C.in C. Nore, 1821/6 to Admty).

BARON RENFREW (Bombed 28/1.)

Arrived Aberdrossan tug ST. OLAVES with 4 survivors from BARON RENFREW.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1825/6).

Attack on 4/2 on F.N. Convoy off Gunfleet.

VANITY's 1150/4. Dornier was shot down by gunfire from VANITY.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1943/6).

Mining.

Liverpool.

Do not arrive seaward end of Q.Z.S. 211 before 0800/7. Precautions.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1011/6 to VANOC).

Approach route.

Cancel my 1007/2/12/40.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1146/6.)

Humber to be closed for a period daily.

Until a further signal is made it is intended owing to the Mining Situation to close the Humber daily from sunset until 1200 the following day.
(F.O. Humber 1015/6) (C.in C. Rosyth 1730/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

MENESTHEUS (Mined 5/2).

Expect BEAUFORT as A/S air escort about 1800.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1120/6 to MENESTHEUS).

Join MENESTHEUS in tow of AGAMEMNON estimated at 1200 today 059° 24'N., 007° 12'W Course 142° speed 4 knots. Provide A/S escort to destination.
(A.C.O.S. 1158/6 to BUTTERMERE, WINDERMERE).

My position course and speed 058° 55'N., 006° 35'W. 145° 7.5 knots. One engine serviceable. ST. ALBANS and CHARLESTON in company.
(MENESTHEUS 1500/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Bristol Channel.

Ships may now enter and leave Avonmouth and Barry Docks but are not to enter or leave Cardiff or Newport until further orders. Ships may now proceed from Swansea to the Eastward subject to above instructions.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff 1145/6).

Owing to suspected minelaying no ships are to leave Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff or Barry until further orders. Ships may leave Swansea only if bound to westward. Incoming ships are to anchor to westward of Breaksea Light Vessel.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 2134/6).

Operation E.A.

My 2234/5. Southern half of Q Z S 178 has been swept and should be used.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1150/6 to TEVIOT BANK).

M.A/S.B. 12. (Mined 5/2).

My 1544/5. Sunk while in tow. Reasonable chance of salvage.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1159/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE. — INTREPID, ICARUS, IMPULSIVE. Intended Operation. (V.C.N.S. 1202/6). See Operations Volume.

P.W.2. — Weather permitting M.T.B. Operations P.W.2. will be carried out tonight. (C.in C. Nore, 1440/6).

M.T.B's 22, 32 and 34 sailed at 1809. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1813/6).

Thames Estuary. — At 1719/5 Mine detonated by S.A. gear 1.4 miles 225° B.5. Buoy. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1532/6).

Falmouth. — 3 ground mines exploded during heavy weather p.m./5. Positions. (F.O.I.C. Falmouth 1700/6).

Enemy Intelligence.

By D/F at 0856/6 position of unknown enemy unit was approximately 48° N., 25° W. Possible that this unit is a surface craft. (D.D.I.C. 0947/6). (F.O.C.N.A. 1200/6 to ships.)

Kiel Canal. — Repeating N.A. Stockholm's 2024/4. Other information tends to confirm that Kiel Canal is frozen. (D.D.I.C. 1701/6 to C.in C. H.F. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

General.
Ships with port stores. (D.S.T. 1112/6.)

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.67. Route. (ULLSWATER 0515/6).

F.S.4. 10 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 0953/6.)
Absentees.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0954/6).
Escort.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1752/6).

E.N.68. Sailed 0800/7. 20 ships and submarine L.23.
Code Words.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0959/6).

F.N.100. Arrived 1000.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 1020/6).

F.N.99. Arrivals.
(N.C.S.O. Sunderland 1105/6, F.O.I.C. Tyne 1632/6, N.C.S.O. Methil 1716/6).

F.N.1. List and destinations.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1150/6, F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1547/6).
Arrivals.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1659/6).

E.N.66. All arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1204/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.8.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

O.G.O.52.	Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 0835/6).
O.G.52.	Escort left. (Capt: D. Londonderry, 1635/6).
H.X.104.	Asking position. (C.in C. W.A. 1231/6 to CHURCHILL).
H.G.53.	Left. (S.O.(I) Gibraltar, 1330/6).
H.X.105.	Not met. Position. (WITCH, 1400/6 to C.in C. W.A.)
S.L.63.	Route for CANTON. (C.in C. W.A. 1507/6).
S.C.19.	Summary, 5 ships torpedoed. (D.T.D. 1607/6 to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa).
S.C.20.	Destinations. (D.T.D. 1609/6).
H.X.106.	Sailing telegram is amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1613/6).
H.X.103.	Summary, 2 ships sunk. (D.T.D. 1837/6 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).
Tankers.	Re expediting discharge at Falmouth. (D.T.D. 1745/6).
Dangerous Area.	Warning to Commodores. (D.T.D. 2129/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys.

Various Sailings.	C.in C. W.A. 1237/6, 1857/6, N.C.S.O. Dartmouth 2014/6.
O.B.285.	Sailed 0300/9. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1405/6).
F.S.5.	Humber and Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1459/6, 1601/6) Escort. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1752/6, C.in C. Nore 2042/6)
W.N.79.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1714/6).
W.N.81.	Sailed 1830/6. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1840/6).
F.N.2.	Escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2042/6).
C.W.25.	Postponed 24 hours. (C.in C. Nore, 2134/6).
F.S.5.	Sailed 2300/6, 195 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2323/6).

Ocean Convoys.

O.C.C.	Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0415/6 and list, 1033/6). 14 ships. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 0655/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Military Convoys.

W.S.6. My 1625/4. A/S Escort W.S.6. Add NAPIER to Clyde portion. (C.in C. W.A. 1819/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

MERCHANT ROYAL. (Steering defect 5/2).

Sail tug ABEILLE 4 to assist MERCHANT ROYAL broken down in 155° Duncansby Head 5 miles at 2103/5 steering S.E. slowly. One Cruiser and a sloop standing by her.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0002/6 to N.O.I.C. Peterhead).

Tug, ABEILLE No.4 sailed 0056/6.
(N.O.I.C. Peterhead, 0058/6).

ROCKPOOL (Grounded 1/2).

Proceed forthwith to assistance of ROCKPOOL aground on South end of Little Cumbrae and now requiring assistance.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0520/5 to SCHELDE).

STANHOPE.

(British 2337 tons). Ashore Hammond Knoll 22 miles Cromer.
(Humber Radio 0527/6).

No danger. No assistance required at present.
(Humber Radio 0551/6).

S.O.S. off South Leman Buoy. Proceeding slowly. Still required assistance.
(Portishead Radio 0846/6).

Sailed tug ST. MELLONS to assistat at 1035.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1054/6).

Join ST. MELLONS proceeding to assist. Afford A.A. protection.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1143/6 to SNAPDRAGON).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

E.T.A. 5 buoy about 1600/6. Reports water gaining gradually. Take her into Yarmouth Roads if necessary. ST. MELLONS informed. (C.in C. Nore, 1351/6 to SNAPDRAGON.)

Am making for Harwich with her. (SNAPDRAGON 1450/6 to N.O.I.C. Harwich).

Arrivals tug ST. MELLONS and STANHOPE - at 2340. Anchored in examination anchorage. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 2347/6).

Lifeboat sighted 5/2.

Whitley aircraft will be assisting search for life-boat between 0150 and 0200 W. (C.in C. W.A. 0909/6 to CLARKIA).

SCARBOROUGH.

Have defective wiring in A/S Control board.

Proceeding to Campbeltown for repair. Will rejoin convoy by p.m./7. (SCARBOROUGH 1045/6).

CHURCHILL.

Arrived. 24 hours, required to make good defects. (N.O.I.C. Stornoway 1219/6).

POLITICIAN (Grounded 5/2).

Ship lying most easterly point of Eriskay Island South Uist Outer Hebrides. (Port Patrick Radio 1245/6).

SANDHURST.

One Corvette is to be sailed for Southend to arrive by 1600/7 to act as an escort for SANDHURST sailing in tow of WATERMEYER with F.N.S. on 8/2 and will be required to proceed as far as Tyne where BRIGAND will take over the tow.

C.in C. Rosyth is requested to arrange onward passage of SANDHURST from Tyne and for Corvette to return to Harwich with first available F.S.Convoy.

Report name of Corvette detailed. (C.in C. Nore 1514/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.8.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

Your 1514/6 SHEARWATER detailed.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1754/6 to C.in C. Nore).

DELHI. Condenser trouble. Proceeding on one engine only. (DELHI 2247/6).
See South Atlantic.

ANGULARITY. (501 tons) Sailed in Convoy F.N.101, not arrived. Germans claim in broadcast sunk by E/Boat which took off survivors. (B.M.S.M.298).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Raider Situation.

(1) Atlantic. EURYLOCHUS and AFRIC STAR attacked by one armed merchant, raider and a vessel possibly SCHEER and possibly one or both are moving towards east coast of South America. Some reports of their possible movement to this area received but they may be deliberately planted.

An R. distress signal from an unknown ship 350 miles S.W. of Azores on 1/2 and an incorrectly cancelled R distress signal from British ST. LINDSAY 20 miles south of Azores on 3/2 may indicate a raider in that area, but no definite proof.

Another raider identified by D/F on 28/1 near 7° S., 22° W.

(2) Southern Ocean. This raider appears to be moving north eastwards towards Prince Edward Island.

(3) Indian Ocean. D/F indicated that MANDASOR's raider had moved to west of Seychelles by 4/2.

(4) Pacific Ocean. No news.

(5) HIPPER Left Brest possibly night 1/2nd/2 not yet located.
(D.D.I.C. 2318/6 to C.in C's H.F. S.A. etc.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Degaussing of Prizes at Gibraltar.

Whilst awaiting completion of crews should the more valuable French prizes detained at Gibraltar and destined for U.K. be degaussed before leaving? Provided no interference with important naval work is occasioned.
(A.S. Gibraltar 1304/6 to Admty).

Convoy passing Gibraltar.

French armed trawler DENIS PAPIN passed Gibraltar eastbound at 1230/6 escorting French M/V's BOURGES, 2910 tons, SAINT LOUIS 5202 tons, and ASTREE, 2147 tons.
(D.O.R. 7/1).

French Ships' movements.

Following from Navy Department from Dakar, 5/2, sailed French SAN PEDRO for South and MEDNOVARDA for Morocco. 4/2 arrived French MARAKESH from Morocco with African troops.
(N.A.Washington 1700/6, to Admty).

North Atlantic.

OTUS R. of P., Azores.

Conditions normal. No local patrol; Destroyer in Ponta Delgada. Unreliable report Italian submarines have fuelled Ponta Delgada.
(OTUS 0613/6 to Capt: (S) 8 S.F.)

Repeated to TUNA, adding "destroyer is probably Portuguese. (Capt: S.8 1812/6 to TUNA
F.O (S) 1306/6 for Admty).

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Submarine patrol off Azores. TUNA on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A.1004/6).

SANTAREM (Brazilian) My 2317/5. Ship was boarded off Lisbon (Lisboa) by IMPERIALIST at 1320/5 but released as reports concerning Frau Schmeeberg not then been received. This person is said to be carrying mail for South America delivered to herself by Sitma. It is these mails which are to be removed. (F.O.C.N.A. 1031/6 to N.A.Stn).

Your 2317/5 should be considered cancelled. It is important that SANTAREM should not be stopped. (D.N.W.D. 1207/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Cancel my 2317/5 and 1031/6. SANTAREM is not to be molested. (F.O.C.N.A. 1351/6).

Convoy. 12 hours early. E.T.A. Gibraltar 1200/8 with 4 ships in convoy. (LEITH 1037/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MARSDALE. Your 0900/6 not approved. Proceed to Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.P. 1416/6 to MARSDALE).

Enemy Unit. Unknown enemy unit possible surface craft was in approx. 048° N., 025° W. at 0900/6. German ship PLUS left Vigo night of 4/5 Feb. destination unknown. (Capt: S.8. 1652/6 to CTUS).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 6.2.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Azores Patrol. PANDORA. My 1019/25/1. Dockyard work on PANDORA will not be completed and she will not be ready till (date) to sail. Unless Admty. direct otherwise do not intend to extend UNA's time on patrol and there will thus be a gap of 3 days in which no submarine will be on patrol.
(F.O.(S) 1656/6 to Admty etc.)

LOCH OSKAIG. Weather off Lisbon, mist, visibility varies ½ to 15 miles. Request instructions should we return to port as previously arranged or remain in Patrol area until relieved?
(LOCH OSKAIG 2030/6 to F.O.C.N.A.)

Evacuation of Gibraltar. Numbers. (in reply to Col. Off. No.3. of 1/1) (Gov. Gib. 2030/6).

South Atlantic.

A/S Vessels. Your 1305/4. Auxiliary A/S group 16 is fully manned and will sail from Durban 10/2. POL I and POL V are ready for passage but awaiting crew from U.K. My 1147B/29 refers.
(N.O.I.C. Simonstown 0325B/6 to C.in C. Med.)

ARNDALE. Proceed to enter Montevideo at 0900 2/2 + 3 Monday 10/2. 24 hour non-fuelling visit. Instructions.
(R.A.S.A.D. to ARNDALE 0918Z/6).

MANDASOR overdue. Overdue shipping. MANDASOR due Durban 4th from Calcutta not arrived.
(S.O.(I) Capetown 0937B/6).

Aircraft for Takoradi. GUDVIK sailed Glasgow 31/1 with 4 Blenheims for Takoradi. Freightship BARON SEMPLE sailed Leith 30/1, with 3 Blenheim aircraft for Takoradi.
(D.S.T. 1107/6 to S.T.O. I/C Takoradi).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 6.2.1941. Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CANTON CHITRAL. — Your 1834/5. Programmes for refit etc. (C.in C. S.A. to Admty, 1201/6). See Operations Volume.

Convoy Information for Admty. — Your 1946/5. (Re maintainance full information re Ocean Convoys.) Request if any particular signals are in mind so that matter may be investigated or whether signal is precautionary only. (C.in C. S.A. 1211N/6 to Admty).

S.S. LANCING. — Have you any news of Norwegian ship LANCING due south Georgia 31/1 from Curacoa departure 30/12. (N.C.S.O.(I) Freetown 1559N/6 to N.O.I.C. Falklands).

CUMBERLAND NEWCASTLE ASTURIAS. — Cruisers are at Pig. CUMBERLAND transferring fuel to NEWCASTLE. Intend to remain in Rio area for the present but necessary to fuel F.O. about 12/2. ASTURIAS close to Santos now, fuel at Rio de Janeiro 12/2 normally resuming patrol in K 32, K 33. I will arrange visit. (R.A.S.A.D. 1435/6 to C.in C. S.A.)

ASTURIAS, Visit to Rio. — My 1749/31. Please ask permission for 24 hours visit entering 0900 local time 12/2. For C.O. (requirements). ASTURIAS comply. (R.A.S.A.D., 1619/6 to Ambasador, Rio de Janeiro.)

LADY DENISON PENDER. — My 1929/4. St. Vincent C.V. report 0940/6. communication established with LADY DENISON PENDER. (C.in C. S.A. 1601N/6 to I.C.S.)

Raider Identity. — Your 2305/5. Decision as to whether raider is ADMIRAL SCHEER is urgent. Request details re triangular structure and tripod mast. SCHEER may have been modified and have an overhanging bow. (D.D.I.C. 1636/6 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

My 2305/5 and your 1636/6.
Fourth Officer states triangular structure was a large structure arising from bridge level. Midshipman still states he saw a tripod mast in glare of searchlight at about level of light but unable to say in what position in ship this was or any other details.
(C.in C. S.A. 2027/6 to Admty).

AFRICA MARU. Your 1705/4. Ask South African authorities to remove (details) Release remainder of cargo. Release ship when above items have been landed.
(D.S.W.D. 1652/6 to S.O.(I) Capetown).

Santos. My 1314Z/5.* N.C.S.O. Santos reports there is no change in position at Santos.
(S.O.(I) Montevideo 1744/6).
* (Re Axis ships appear to have steam up or testing).

Axis ships at Montevideo. My 1314Z/5 with exception of Santos there are no signs of activity among enemy or Danish merchant vessels at other ports on this coast.
(N.S.O.(I) Montevideo 2053Z/6).

EURYLOCHUS (sunk by raider 29/1). My 2305N/5/2. Survivors now in Freetown number 11 (details)
(C.in C. S.A. 2131/6 to Admty).

DELHI. defects. My position 021 00'S., 000 00'E. at 2000Z-1/6. Owing to serious and extensive trouble in Starboard condenser am proceeding on one engine only. Maximum speed available in serious emergency probably about 20 knots. Repairs impossible until all fires can be died out.
(DELHI 2247/6 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Operation M.C.7. Mining of Tobruk and Sollum.

My 1427/1/1 (1427/31 intended) and 2149/2. Operation M.C.7 completed without incident. No enemy force sighted by forces sweeping the patrol area Rhodes or by Battle Squadron throughout period at sea except that fleet was sighted and reported by an aircraft when S.W. of Gavdo Island at 0830/2. Report of sighting was broadcast on commercial wave which seems to indicate movement of merchant vessels was in progress or contemplated.
Enemy aircraft mined Mersa Tobruk on 4/2 but owing to urgency of providing army supplies it has been necessary to continue movement of merchant ships and accept the risk pending arrival of Corvettes who cannot reach Mersa Tobruk until 7/2. Sollum harbour is still mined.
(C.-in-C. Med. 0329/6.)

CARLISLE

Your 0708/5 to Admty. Request you will inform me of nature of essential work to be carried out on CARLISLE. Your 0812/2 not received.
(C.-in-C. Med. 1209/6 to C.-in-C. E.I.)

BENGHAZI.

Indications that Italians are preparing to evacuate Benghazi.
(H.Q., R.A.F., M.E. 1217/6)

Instructions for entering Tobruk.

Ships visiting Tobruk are not to pass beyond position 032° 04'N. 024° 12' 30" E. unless escorted by a trawler or examination vessel. Ships are to make their E.T.A. in accordance with C.B. (two corrupt groups) Q to B.S.N.O. Tobruk Lighthouse.
(C.-in-C. Med. 1243/6).

Mining of Suez Canal.

Reported B.2:- In addition to magnetic mines enemy dropped new type of contact mine specially designed for use in canal. This mine sinks to bottom on landing. Mercury ballast in it then leaks slowly and mine eventually begins to rise, rate of rising given as 5 metres every 96 hours. Informant believes not all mines have risen yet.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal. 1251/6 to C.-in-C. Med).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mining of Suez Canal. (Contd.)

H.M. Minesweeping Hopper No.39 mined ashore side of canal at k.m.136.2. Fear some casualties. Canal Company hopper mined and sunk at k.m.138.7. Skid exploded mine at k.m.83.4. Ships up to about 8,000 tons could pass all obstructions but all traffic stopped during sweeping operations. Two skid towing Tugs Conrad control are diesel and would be likely to explode acoustic mines but this has not happened.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Can. 1303/6).

Your 1107/5. Satisfactory arrangements for Canal watching system have been made with military who are providing one Battalion for this service today. A.A. defence of Suez is also being improved.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1317/6 to Admty.)

Safety from acoustic mines may be achieved by stopping main engines and if possible diesel auxiliaries when passing known position of mine that has not responded to sweeping.
This may be of particular value in Suez Canal where accurate marking of mines is simple matter.
(D.N.S. 1653/6. to C.-in-C., Med. etc.)

All movement in Canal except that of sweeping craft is at present stopped south of Lake Timsah. Intend to sweep this porition with all resources at my disposal on 7/2 and 8/2 and then resume traffic after a final sweep a.m./9. Risk of damage to ships gared up by any mines exploded being accepted.
(S.B.N.O., Suez Canal, 1953/6.)

Estimate of size of ships able to pass through Canal so far as obstructions are concerned (a) up to about 8,000 tons, now
(b) up to about 15000 tons on 18/2
(c) up to maximum tonnage 5/3.
Above liable to considerable revision as work proceeds.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 2010/6).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean (Contd.)

Minesweepers Defective.	142 nd minesweeping group have arrived Suez from U.K. at a most critical juncture with their D.G. coils completely rotted due to having been encased in cement and secured down to deck. As a result they cannot be used until their whole D.G. equipment has been renewed. Request confirmation that othe LL minesweeping units will arrive ready for service. (C.in C. Med. 2301/6 to Admty).
	Request 2 D.W.I. Wellington fully modified be despatched to Egypt forthwith. Ring and generator plant will be fitted by R.A.F. at Ismailia. Urgently required. (C.in C. Med., 2215/6 to Admty).
URSULA.	Extend your patrol area 10 miles to westward to 0110 15'. (Capt: S.1., 1425/6 to URSULA).
Convoy S.V.One.	1300 G.M.T./6. Ships and destinations. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area 1613/6).
Genoa reported closing.	Your 1428/5. All Swiss Commercial traffic from Genoa to Switzerland has been suspended for the moment. As volume of traffic now being dealt with at Genoa is such below pre-war it would appear suspension is on account of military reasons and not due to any congestion of merchandise in Port. (N.A.Madrid 1621/6 to Admty.)
French Govt., Policy.	B.2. information from Casablanca 4 and 5/2. (D.N.I. 1649/6 to C.in C. Med.) See Mediterranean Volume.
DOMINION MONARCH.	Your 0632/6. No objection to DOMINION MONARCH calling at Aden to embark U.K. passengers. She can also embark Abyssinians for Mombasa subject to C.in C. E.I, concurrence. (S.S.T.O. Egypt 1733/6 to S.N.O. Red Sea Force).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Ammunition. Re reserve. (C.in C. Med. 1733/6).

UPRIGHT
UNIQUE. Leave patrol p.m./7 through (route) arrangements will be made for entering Marsamxett. UNIQUE will sail at 1800A/7 through (route).
(S.O.(S) Malta 2031/6 to UPRIGHT).

RORQUAL. Visibility bad due to sand storm. Instructions if D/F bearings are required. AJAX and PERTH are probably waiting near Sanctuary.
(Capt: S.1. 2207/6 to RORQUAL).

Italian W/T Activity. Traffic on Italian ship wave today 6/2 is unusually heavy, particularly on 153 kc/s. D/F bearings are indeterminate but there is a general indication of activity to N.W. of Malta.
(C.O.I.S. Alexandria 2348/6 to C.in C. Med.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

FORMIDABLE.	Your 2014Z/5, not to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area. Comply with C.in C. Med., 2207/5 not to S.O. Force K. (A.C.N.S. (F) 0100/6 to C.in C. E.I.)
Operation "Composition".	C.in C. Med. 2207/5. Plan for "Composition" and let me know as soon as possible intended date. (C.in C. E.I. 0402Z/6 to S.N.O. Red Sea).
HAWKINS.	My 0402/6 and 2016/5 (not to Admiralty). I presume HAWKINS is not required for "Composition". If you agree sail her to comply with my 1440/5. (C.in C. E.I. 0414Z/6 to S.N.O. Red Sea).
ALICE MOLLER overdue.	Overdue shipping. British ALICE MOLLER Lourenco Marques to Aden. (C.in C. E.I. 0416/6 to Admty).
Persian Gulf, Contraband Control.	Your 0602/26. Remarks on preliminary discussions with M.E.W. representative. (S.N.O. Persian Gulf 0802Z/6 to C.in C. E.I.)
Convoys W.S.5.B. W.S.5.B.X.	Route from Durban. Escorts etc. (C.in C. E.I. 1141Z/6. See Operations Volume.
Italian Situation.	If collapse of I.E.A. takes place reported arrangements made with Marshal Petain for Italian Destroyers and Submarines to be interned Madagascar. (C.in C. M.E. 1110/6.)
HERMES ENTERPRISE.	Your 2351/30. In view of future projected movements I think it is better to make transfer complete. My 1258/5 refers. (C.in C. E.I. 1232Z/6 to C.in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

CAPETOWN
Mogadishu.

CAPETOWN is to reconnoitre Mogadishu about sunset on 7/2. Object to ascertain whether any shipping there, but keep outside range of coast defence guns. If shipping is sighted you may test effectiveness of your fix on it but ammunition is not to be wasted. Town is not to be bombarded.
After withdrawal proceed towards Seychelles at 12 knots.
(C.in C. E.I. 12362/6. to CAPETOWN).

Mogadishu
Operation
"Breach".

Your 0717/4. Was position for Cucumbers (? chosen) for a particular reason or unintentionally. My 0634/28/1 para. 4 refers.
(C.in C. E.I. 1620Z/6 to S.O.Force K).

America and West Indies.

Troop
Transport.

Your 1747/5. Second alternative proposed. (D.O.D.(H) 1657/6 to R.A.S.B.S.) See Operations Volume.

T.C.9.

Date of sailing postponed.
(D.O.D.(H) 1632/6 to R.A.S.B.S. etc.)
See Operations Volume.

HUSKY
VAN KINSBERGEN.

Officer Administering Govt., of Trinidad tel. 145 of 5/2 to Col. Off. HUSKY was detailed by me to take part in operation under orders of VAN KINSBERGEN. Consider question as to whether Canadian or Dutch were captors should be immaterial.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1721/6 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

U.S.9. Departure 5/2. SYDNEY 0801Z from Fremantle for Sydney, WARREGO SWAN ORARA BATHURST 1300Z from Melbourne for Sydney, H.M. Transport MAURETANIA 1950Z from Port Phillip Bay for R/V with U.S.9.
(A.C.N.B. 0216Z/6 to C.in C. China, E.T. etc.)

WESTRALIA escorting local transport ZEALANDIA arrived Darwin 0600Z/5.
(A.C.N.B. 0644Z/6 to Admty).

AUSTRALIA. Your 1723/31/12/40. Re future employment (1st naval member 0715Z/6 to Admty).
See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PLUS. Vigo reports PLUS sailed from there night of 4/5. Destination unknown.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1033/6 to N.A.Station.

PROCIDA. Arrival PROCIDA. 5/2.
(Valencia, T.H.I. 2010/6).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LELLO C.2. Report LELLO has been sunk trading between Barcelona and Genoa.
(N.A.Madrid, 1201/6).

MOST SECRET.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRITISH PREMIER (torpedoed 24/12) Survivors found after 41 days.

My 2109/9/1. Four more survivors from BRITISH PREMIER were picked up on 3/2 in position 4.33'N., 10.33'W. (names) Men had been in a small open boat for 41 days with only one tin of biscuits and no water except provided by rain. They had no food for the last 25 days. Though in a very emaciated condition they are progressing satisfactorily and appear little effected by their experience. (C.in C. S.A., 1237W/6 to Admty).

EMPIRE CITIZEN (torpedoed 3/2).

Native Seaman required urgent medical assistance. Should no information be received from Aircraft intend to discontinue search at 1700 on reaching 058°W., 016°W., and proceed Londonderry. (CLARKIA, 1353/6 to C.in C. W.A.)

Your 1216/6 (? 1553/6). proceed Londonderry at best speed. (C.in C. W.A. 1648/6 to CLARKIA).

MAPLE COURT.

Following has been read. 8333. Position 55° 39'N., 15° 56'W. MAPLE COURT. (Valentia W/T 1553/6). British 3388 tons, from Boston to Preston with general cargo. (D.S. 521).

If MAPLE COURT was not in company detach portion of escort to hunt U/Boat in 055° 39'N., 015° 56'W at 1700. (C.in C. W.A. 1741/6 to HARVESTER.).

My 1741/ . If not in contact at dark, ship detached rejoin convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1841/6 to HARVESTER).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.2.1941.
Thursday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/m's reported.

1536. Am over enemy S/m in 55.16 N., 9.42 W. (1536/6).

1648. Am investigating contact in 090 Inistrahull 19.
(WESTON, 1648/6 to WHITEHALL).

1655. Admty. Message A.F. position 55° 39'N., 15° 56'W. at 1555/6 G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1734/6).

1757. By D/F at 1757 B.S.T. position of enemy unit, probably U/Boat was approx. 55° 30'N., 19° 40'W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1830/6).

Mexico 30/1. Following from Navy Dept., press reports from Tepic state that S/M unknown nationality arrived LA PANOCHA near San Blas, Mexico 30/1. and obtained water. Confirmation difficult to obtain but similar reports current.
(N.A. Washington 1630/6).

Estimated U/Boat dispositions.

German.

1 between Shetlands and Faeroes.
Possibly 1 within 60 miles of 59° 30'N., 10° 30'W.
1 within 60 miles of 59° N., 19° W.
1 within 100 miles of 58° 30'N., 22° W.
1 within 40 miles of 56° N., 19° 30'W.
1 within 60 miles of 55° N., 21° 30'W.
1 about 52° N., west of 25° W.
1 near Azores.

Italian.

1 in N.W. Approaches may be south of 55° N., East of 20° W.
(D.D.I.C. 1334/6).

Submarines Attacked.

1555. U/Boat submerged Co.250 attacked.
(A/C 207 Squadron Duty X. 16 1555/6).
(To Stranraer).

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MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.2.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Western Channel Patrol — Three destroyers patrolled last night between the longitudes of Start Point and the Lizard, to cover shipping in the Channel.

LONDON commissioned today at Chatham.

British Air Activity

Owing to bad weather certain Coastal Command patrols were cancelled today; several convoy escorts returned early and others were cancelled. A Whitley escorting S.C. 20 50 miles from Bloody Foreland was reported missing: HARVESTER picked up the crew.

49 aircraft of Bomber Command were despatched to Boulogne and Dunkirk last night. Calais and Dieppe were also attacked as alternative targets. Bad weather caused operations by Bomber Command today to be cancelled

Enemy Air Activity

M.T.B. 100 attacked an aeroplane off Copinsay and saw it come down, apparently crashed.

A single enemy plane bombed Lowestoft harbour this afternoon and damaged the swing bridge, preventing the entry and egress of ships for a few hours. The enemy aircraft was hit and is thought to have come down in the sea.

/35 BAY FISHER...

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.2.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity-Contd.

SS BAY FISHER following Convoy W.N. 80 was attacked and sunk this morning off Bell Rock.

Mining

Enemy minelaying by aircraft last night was on a small scale and occurred only on the south west coast .

The report that H.M.T. RONSO was mined on 23/1 is incorrect.

SS SCOTTISH COOPERATOR was mined this evening off Workington harbour, (Liverpool area) and was beached.

Operation P.W. 2.

M.T.B's from the Nore laid mines off the Belgian coast last night.

Mediterranean

Operations in Libya

Benghazi was occupied today by our troops. A large number of prisoners and a quantity of stores and equipment were captured. There are said to be two wrecked Italian destroyers in the Harbour.

Mining of Suez Canal

16 mines have so far been accounted for in the Canal.

Minesweeper Situation

C. in C., Med. today draws attention to his serious shortage of mine sweepers, and he asks that in view of the time taken to send sweepers from the U.K. craft may be withdrawn from stations near the Mediterranean where the threat from mines is not serious. He also urgently requires balloons, short range A.A. weapons, and minesweeping equipment.

/ADMDA.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

7.2.1941.
Friday

SITUATION REPORT

Mediterranean-Contd.

ADINDA Mined

Dutch tanker ADINDA was mined off Tobruk today. Damage not known.

Air Raid on Malta

7 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on various parts of the island between dusk and midnight today, but caused no damage other than 2 civilian casualties.

East Indies

Air reconnaissance has revealed considerable activity amongst German ships at Kismayu. TANNENFELS is reported to have sailed between 30/1 and 5/2. A second ship, which may be UCKERMARK, may also have sailed, since the Italian situation may have decided German ships to seek refuge elsewhere. The only other German ships known to be at Kismayu are the two small vessels ASKARI and KIONGA.

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MOST SECRET.

7. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

CILICIA
CHITRAL.

My 1011/11/1, paras. 5 and 6. CILICIA is to join Freetown Convoy Escort Force and CHITRAL to join the Halifax C.E.F. 2. F.O.C. N.P. is requested to inform C. in C. S.A. and R.A. 3rd B.S. when vessels may be expected and to sail them accordingly.

4. Confirmation is requested that CHITRAL will sail for Iceland vice CILICIA on 17/2. (A.C.N.S.(T) 1624/7.)

NAPIER
NIZAM.

NAPIER and NIZAM are to join Mediterranean Fleet as soon as working up is completed. NIZAM should be sailed for Scapa on completion of present duties. (A.C.N.S.N.1728/7.)

NORFOLK.
8-inch
Cruisers
in Home
Waters.

My 0029/7. On arrival at Scapa NORFOLK will join the Home Fleet as Flagship of F.O.C. 1st. C.S. 2. From the date of NORFOLK's arrival at Scapa all 8" cruisers in Home Waters will be administered by F.O.C. 1st. C.S.(V.C.N.S. 1921/7.)

Defence of U.K.

Green Flares
seen off
Yarmouth.

1. H.Q.F.C. 1935/8. As aircraft two star cartridge was two green for the period in question little doubt is felt that the light was fired by an aircraft.

If further investigation needed request fuller information including time of occurrence. (C. in C. Nore 0846/7.)

DELUGE.

At 1130/7. (D.C. 1210/7.)

/Crustan.....

War Diary.

7. 2. 41.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.Contd.

Crustan.
A.M.E.S.

M.O.3. 7/2, 0/241. Please inform Commander C and S. Defences. - Air Min. request immediate provision of military guard at A.M.E. Station Crustan. Report if this guard can be provided from your existing garrison. (War Office 1838/7, to Admty.)

Faroes.
A/A.
Defences.

96. A Message 1921/12/12. Information requested whether A/A Guns can now be spared for the defence of Skuale Fjord. 2. The threat from submarine attack can be accepted if it can be reduced by creating the impression of the existence of a controlled minefield by fitting dummy net defences.
3. But risk of keeping an oiler in Skuale Fjord without A/A defences must not be accepted. (C. in C. H.F.2327/7.)

Movements.

SNAPPER.

To leave patrol.(S.2. 1233/7.)

LYCIA.
(Blockship.)

Intend HEBE to escort LYCIA in tow Tug ALLIGATOR from May Island to Scapa.

N.O.I.C. Blyth is to sail LYCIA from Blyth as requisite 9/2.(C. in C. Rosyth 1300/7) (A.C.O.S. 1724/7.)

L.23.
URGE.

L.23 escorted by GLEANER, E.T.A.1030/8, from convoy E.N.68. URGE escorted by HAMLET is expected to sail P.M./8. (route). (A.C.O.S. 1409/7.) Cancel my 1352/27/1.

/NEPTUNE.....

MOST SECRET.

7. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

NEPTUNE. To sail passing Hoxo Boom at 0100/8th, for Sheerness. (C. in C. H.F. 1441/7.)

Your 1441/7. Fighter proctection arranged. (C. in C. Rosyth 1536/7.)

Submarines. Positions at 0800/8, and movement for following 24 hours. (F.O.S.1654/7.)

State of S-class. Destroyers. Admiralty 2136/6. Following is state of (B) Class Destroyers.
4. Request you inform me if "A" Class destroyers can be sailed to Scapa to conform with these dates. (C. in C.H.F. 1816/7, to C. in C.W.A.)

Operations.

Suspicious Trawler. CURACOA reports. Trawler A221 was stopped and apparently fishing at 0610 today, in 118° Duncansby Head 7 miles. Ends.

This is suspiciously close to the No.1. submarine cable which broke down 0300/27/1, at approximately this point. N.O.I.C. Aberdeen is requested to investigate. (A.C.O.S. 1308/7.)

Operation CEILING. Training Torpedoes may be used. (D.N.A.D.1708/7, to R.A.N.A.S.)

Operation. P. X. Postponed a further 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 1408/7.)

Jan Mayer. My 1709/18/1. Request that a powerful transmitter may be sent at once.Reason. (F.O. Iceland 1731/7.)

MOST SECRET.

7. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Following now in operation:-
Fair, S A 1 A, S.A.2, S.A.3.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1006/7.)

Air Rescue Craft at Dover.

Cancel previous instructions for 5th M.L. Flotilla. To strengthen forces available for air rescue they should be sailed forthwith to Newhaven and placed under the orders of V.A.Dover.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1347/7 to R.A.C.F.)

At request of Air Ministry the rescue craft at Dover are to be reinforced by moving one R.A.F. M.S.L. from Blyth and Humber respectively. Request F.O's concerned to arrange this forthwith using boats now serviceable. The 5th Flotilla of 8 M.L's is being moved from Holyhead to Newhaven for Air Sea Rescue work. (A.C.N.S.H. 1852/7.)

Adty. 1852/7. Request you will sail 1 M.S.L. for Dover and report time of sailing. (C. in C. Rosyth 2215/7 to N.O.I.C. Blyth.)

A/C Torpedo Distribution.

Disbribution of aircraft torpedoes, heads, and dummies at R.N. Air Stations at home is to be as follows. (D.N.A.D.1708/7 to RANAS.)

804. Squadron.

My 1843/6. As one flight of 253 Squadron has arrived at Castletown request you will now move 804 Squadron to Yeovilton. (D.N.A.D. 1709/7.)

Enemy Air Activity.

BARON RENFREW (Bombed 22/1.)

Has been towed by ABELIA to Loch Lathaich, Ross of Mull and anchored. Proceed forthwith to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0113/7 to SALVONIA, TENACITY.)

/ABELIA.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

BARON RENFREW (Bombed 28/1.)	ABELIA has found BARON RENFREW and is standing by. Return to harbour and land survivors. (C.in C.W.A. 0143/7 to CANDYTUFT.)
	Found BARON RENFREW. Awaiting gale to moderate. (SALVONIA 0920/7.)
IOANNIS M. EMBIRICOS. (Bombed 5/2.)	Cancel my 2151. Proceed to assist NORTHERN GEM standing by IOANNIS M. EMBIRICOS. (C. in C. W.A. 0209/7 to CAPE MARIATO.)
Own a/c fired at.	C. in C. W.A1114/7 in reply to Admty, 0409/6.
A/C attacked off Copinsay.	One Aeroplane, Height 5000 feet. Position N.E. Copinsay 3.(M.T.B.100. 1111/7.)
	My 1110. Smoke coming from port engine. Am making search. Believe plane crashed. (M.T.B.100.1125/7.)
WAZIRISTAN (Bombed 2/2.)	In tow of BANDIT estimated in 59° 53' N. 08° 58' W. at 1200 today. Course 162° speed 8 knots. LORD MIDDLETON in company later DOUGLAS. Proceed to assist. (A.C.O.S. 1131/7, to MARAUDER.)
	MARAUDER sailed. (N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 1342/7.)
	My 1721. Admty informs me WAZIRISTAN should go to Kirkwall. I have not passed your 1547 to BANDIT. (A.C.O.S. 1951/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

/Cancel.....

MOST SECRET.

7. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

Cancel my (? 1547) 7 comply with A.C.O.S. 1721/7. (C. in C. W.A. 2047/7 to BANDIT.)

My 1721/6. Estimated position of BANDIT, at 0800/8, 059° 16' N. 007° 08' W. Speed of advance 8 knots. BANDIT steer to pass through 058° 44' 005° 12' W. "MARAUDER" report p.c. and s.(A.C.O.S. 2341/7, to MARAUDER, BANDIT.)

LOWESTOFT. bombed.

At 1315 single enemy plane dropped bombs Lowestoft Harbour. (A) No movement of ships to or from inner harbour possible until repairs effected. No naval casualties. (D). Swing bridge and Control Station also Customs House damaged, but traffic can pass over Bridge. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1351/7.)

My 1351. L.N.E.R. workshop badly damaged. 1 unexploded bomb on railway line near Station. Enemy glided into attack no Alert or Observer Corps warning in operation. Enemy hit and probably down in sea.(N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1456/7.)

My 1351. Swing Bridge now workable with hand gear. Casualties (injured 1 Naval) My 1456. U.B. reported by Military to be 1000 pounds of new type. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 1730/7.)

BAY FISHER. (British, 575 Tons.) On passage from Scapa to Rosyth with Government Stores in W.N.80 was attacked by enemy A/C at 1100/7 227° degrees Bell Rock. 2-1/2, miles and sunk. Four survivors landed Dundee. (C. in C. Rosyth 1444/7.)

59. My 1444/7.....

MOST SECRET.

7. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity Contd.

59. By 1444/7. BAY FISHER was following convoy when attacked by single enemy A/C. Two bombs dropped one hit aft. One near miss. Ship sank in 10 minutes. Crew of 12. Names of four survivors.(C. in C. Rosyth 1746/7.)

BARON RENFREW. (Bombed 28/1.)

Arrived CANDYTUFT with BARON RENFREW survivors. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1021/7.)

CALAFATIS. (Bombed 4/2.)

(Greek, 4443 Tons.) Detach one ship to search for boat with 18 survivors from CALAFATIS bombed, and sunk. Boat, last seen in 55° 40' N. 14° 35' W yesterday, time unknown. Ship detached report name when well clear of convoy. (C. in C. W.A. 1747/7 to PHILANTE.)

Your 1747/7. CAMELLIA and ERICA not yet rejoined from MAPLECOURT. Request you order them to CALAFATIS.(HARVESTER 2012/7 to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed to search for boat. (details repeated as 1747/7.)(C. in C.W.A. 2335/7, to CAMELLIA, ERICA.)

DIONE II. (Bombed 5/2.)

If contact has not been made return to base. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1845/7.)

Minings.

MENESTHEUS. (Mined 5/2.)

Expect to arrive Port Z.A. 0930, under own power. ST.ALBANS in company. Request tug outside harbour entrance. (MENESTHEUS 0015/7.)

/At 1300/5.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

At 1300/5, in 60° 14' N. 08° 14' W. MENESTHEUS exploded a mark twenty mine in Port P/V causing certain engine room damage. She was taken in tow by AGAMEMNON, and is at present anchored outside Port Z.A. Damage apparently not extensive, no hull damage, no casualties. (R.A.M.L. 2147/7.)

HONSO not mined.

(H.M. Trawler) Was shown in D.S.N.E. as having been sunk by mine but this is incorrect. She was reported sunk in Exercise Victor in Dover message 1831/23/1. (V.A. Dover 1029/7.)

Sweeps of War Channel.

By SELKIRK, SPEEDWELL, HUSSAR, SUTTON, Details. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1120/7.)

Aberdeen Area.

S.S. TIOGA on arrival at Inverness reports having seen mines apparently similar to German X type originally black now rusty. One in each position:-
(A) A.M. 5/2 57° 12' N. 1° - 43' W.
(B) 57° 28' N. 1° - 32 W.
(C) P.M. 5/2. 57° 40' N. 1° - 37' W.

(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 1149/7.)

Invergordon's 1149/7. Take necessary action to dispose of these mines.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1238/7 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen.)

INTREPID.
TEVIOT BANK.
IMPULSIVE.

Arrived 1410/7. (F.O. Number 1429/7.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Operation.
S. N. 7.

Scapa arrivals. At 1614 RODNEY, NIGERIA. At 1622 INGLEFIELD, ECHO, ELECTRA, BRILLIANT. (A.C.O.S. 1645/7.)

Port Z.A. arrivals 1730/7, R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE PORT QUEBEC SCOTT BRIGHTON and LANCASTER.(TRELAWNEY 1732/7.)

Iceland.

My 1745/29, British Mark XX mine rendered safe at Fell. Unidentified mine ashore near Siglufjordur. Many other unconfirmed reports of drifting mines on North coast. Mines almost certainly broken adrift from field in Denmark Straits as result of recent heavy weather.(F.O.Iceland 1859/8.)

SOUTHERN PRINCE and PORT QUEBEC laid S.E. half of S.N.7. (R.A.M.L. 2147/7.)

B.S.50.

East Coast Mine Barrage. Serial Number 74. Line B.S.50 has been laid as follows. (D.D.O.D.M. 1835/7.)

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR.

(British, 513 Tons.) Mined in Workington Harbour, entrance 1 mile at 2102 today. Damage and reported now beached. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2254/7.)

Orkneys.

HORNPIPE reports:- Commodore of convoy has just reported sighted other mine 1545/7, in about 58° 48' N. 02° W,T.O.O. 2200 Ends. (Aberdeen W/T 2347/7 to A.C.O.S.

Enemy Intelligence.

BISMARCK.

Reported at Gdynia 6/2. B.2. (Stockholm 1847/7.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

W.N. 82. Escort (F.O.I.C. Belfast 0021/7).

E.N. 67. E.T.A. Loch Ewe. (ULLSWATER 0124/7)
Loch Ewe portion arrived (ULLSWATER 1331/7).

E.N.U. 67. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1520/7).

W.N.81. List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0948/7).

W.N. 81 (C) Sailed (N.C.S.O. Oban 1715/7).

W.N.U. 81. Time of Sailing (N.C.S.O.Aultbea 1150/7).

E.N. 68. Sailed (N.C.S.O. Methil 1003/7). List (N.C.S.O. Methil 1022/7). Position (C. in C. Rosyth 1610/7).

C.B.C. 284. Sailing telegram (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1100/7).

C.B.M. 284 " " (N.C.S.O. Milford 1147/7.)

F.N.2. Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1136/7.)
List (1413/7, 1417/7.)

E.N.69. A/A. Escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 1151/7.)

C.B.282. To disperse. (C. in C. N.A.,1219/7.)

C.B.284. Time of sailing. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1800/7.)

/F.N.1.Arrived,.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

F.N.1.	Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1250/7.)
F.S.3.	Position. (N.C.S.O. Thames,1312/7.) Arrived. (2048/7.)
F.S.4.	Position. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1441/7.) Arrived. (2048/7.)
W.N.79.	Clyde and Oban portions arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1448/7.)
F.S.5.	Sailed. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1504/7.) List (1641/7.) WIDGEON as additional escort. (C. in C. Nore, 2205/7.)
S.M.V.'s.	Escort and E.T.A. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1523/7.)
W.N.80.	Arrived. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1540/7.)
Ocean Convoys.	
E.C.53.	List. (F.O.C.N.A.1603/7.)
H.O.52.	Fleet. (C. in C. W.A.,1643/7.)
O.O.53.	ENCHANTRESS to escort. (Capt. D. Liverpool, 1830/7.)
H.X.108.	Destinations. (D.T.D.,1843/7.)
S.C.22.	Destinations. (D.T.D.2004/7.)

/H.H.X.109.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

B.H.X.109. List. (Navy Control, Bermuda, 1201/7.)

General.
Merchant Ships. Procedure for. (D. T. D.,2006/7.)

W/T. Sealing of Offices. (D.T.D.,0032/7.)

" Proposed instructions for Icelandic and Faroese fishing vessels.(F.O.C.N.P., 1693/7.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

CADILLAC. Returned from B.H.X. 107 for repairs to steering gear.
(N.C.S.O. Halifax N.S. 0937/7).

ANASTASSIOS PATERAS. (Greek, 3382 tons). Broken ahead mast. Position not yet ascertained.
(Valentia Radio 1334/7 F.O.I.C. Greenock 1353/7).

Returning Belfast with defects.
(C. in C.,W.A. 1815/7).

SINGAPORE 3 Sunk. Collision between H.F.S. 96 and Despatch Boat SINGAPORE 3 at about 1215 between No. 28 buoy and No. 3 buoy, latter was sunk.
(Commodore Sheerness 1837/7).

BURMA. Returned to harbour defective.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1905/7).

GREYFRIARS. In tow of Tug SCOTSMAN arrived 1830.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne 2057/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.1.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

WINNIPEG ratings for Martinique.	Following from Navy Dept. from Casablanca. French ship WINNIPEG sailed 5/2 for Martinique with 800 Naval ratings for French warships now in Carribbean. Ship routed to South as if for Dakar and will pass Canary Islands before turning West. (N.A. Washington 1450/7 to Admty).
ROSE SCHIAFFINO.	Re grant of money to crew. (F.O.C.N.A. 1958/7).

North Atlantic.

NORFOLK. DEVONSHIRE. DORSETSHIRE. KENYA.	My 2312/1. Movements to take place after C.S.1. in NORFOLK with DEVONSHIRE make contact with Force Z. (D.O.D.(F) 0029/7 to F.O.C.N.A. C. in C. S.A., C. in C. W.A.) See Operations Volume. Admty 0029/7. Pass through following positions. (F.O.C.N.A. 0326/7). See Operations Volume.
TUNA.	TUNA on patrol off Ponta Delgada. (F.O.C.N.A. 0954/7).
Air Report.	1 A.S. patrol in Straits following contact by H.D.A. negative result. (200 Group 1700/7).
Explosion at Gibraltar.	In military explosives store. Damage of W/T station and casualties. (F.O.C.N.A. 1706/7).
Enemy Units.	C. in C. S.A. reports D/F bearing at 0908Z/7 indicates possible enemy surface unit within 100 miles 025° N. 025° W. Considered unreliable. N.A. Lisbon reports submarine sighted submerged steering east 6 miles south of St. Miguel Azores at 1800/6 (A.1). (F.O.C.N.A. 2300/7 to N.A. Stn).
S.S. BELGIQUE. (Belgian).	Loaded 6000 tons wheat and 300 tons oats, speed 6½ knots due to foul bottom, crew refuse to sail U.K. without convoy. Ship cannot be docked laden. Propose cargo be disposed of to Spain. Ship could then be docked at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A. 2342/8 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

NORFOLK,
DEVONSHIRE,
ROYAL SOVEREIGN.

Cancel my 1907/30.
(D.O.D.(E) 0031/7 to C. in C. S.A. R.A.3 BS).

S.S. LANCING.

(Norwegian). Have no information here.
(N.O.I.C. Port Stanley 0927/7).

My 0927/7 South Georgia reports no news.
(N.O.I.C. Port Stanley 1449/7).

Enemy Unit.

D/F bearings apparently of a single transmission at 1817Z/6/2 indicate German surface unit possibly auxiliary within 300 miles of 15° S. 3° W. probability 30% within 220 miles of 25 N. 50 W. probability 25% within 190 miles of 36. S. 23 E. probability 10%, within 100 miles of 36° N. 15° W. probability 10%, elsewhere 25%. Bearing from Jamaica possibly of Norddeich has been detected. The same bearings from Simonstown and Durban were taken also at 1736Z/6/2. Request any further information.
(C. in C. S.A. 1137/7 to Admty).

Your 1137/7 Bearings from Simonstown and Durban not received. Bearings from U.K. (details). No fix obtainable, but area to North Westward at St. Paul Rocks suggested.
(D.D.I.C. 2341/7 to C. in C. S.A).

S.S. ANGOLA.

Details of mails carried etc. (C. in C. S.A. 1851/7, 1947/7).

AJAX.

Re exchange of prisoners.
(C. in C. S.A. 2347/7).

/CAPETOWN.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

CAPETOWN CASTLE.

Your 2118/5. Discharge will be carried out in Capetown.
(N.O.I.C. Capetown 1155/7 to D. of S.T).

START POINT.

Overdue shipping. Cancel my 0904/5.
(S.O.I. Freetown 1202/7 to Admty).

DRAGON.
TAMERLANE.

DRAGON escorting TAMERLANE arrived Takoradi 0800/7.
(C. in C. S.A. 1325N/7).

DRAGON.

Your 0805/7. N/T in W.R. Proceed to Lagos and complete with fuel. Leave Lagos p.m./9 and return to Freetown adjusting speed to arrive 1600/12.
(C. in C. S.A. 1329N/7 to DRAGON).

Force Z.
FAULKNOR.
FORESTER.

FAULKNOR and FORESTER are to leave Freetown at 0800/8 proceed to rendezvous with Force Z escorted by KENYA and DORSETSHIRE at 0700N/9 and escort to Freetown. Force Z expected to be in position 012° 35'N. 018° 10'W. at 0700N/9 Z. routed through 014° 42'N. 019° 00'W. 010° 40'N. 017° 25'W. Speed of advance 17 knots.
(C. in C. S.A. 1411N/7 to Capt D.8).

AFRICA MARU.

Your 1652/6. Ship will be released p.m./7 after being held up 7 days and clear for Lourenco Marques. ~~Japanese~~ Government fear further delay would cause open rupture.
(S.O.I. Capetown 1458/7 to Admty).

C. in C. A.W.I. 1152/5. Cancel words "South Africa and North America" in my 1954/1 and substitute "North America and South and West African ports south of and including Freetown".
(D.T.D. 1537/7 to C. in C. S.A.).

/Force.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.2.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Force Z. A.T. 1655 of 22/1 para 5. At which port is it intended Force "Z" will call at the Cape?
(D.O.D.(F) 1616/7 to C. in C. S.A.).

Your 1616/7. Intended Force Z shall call at Capetown as diesel fuel not available at Simonstown.
(C. in C. S.A. 2055W/7 to Admty).

Reserve Aircraft. C. in C. S.A's 1247/3/2 and C. in C. E.I. 0404/31/1. Allocated reserve aircraft are being distributed as they become available to provide and maintain following numbers at strategic points.
(D.N.A.D. 1621/7 to C. in C. S.A. E.I.China).

Convoy Information. Your 1211/6. As far as South Atlantic is concerned, precautionary so as to avoid duplication.
(D.T.D. 1849/7 to C. in C. S.A.).

Mediterranean.

Convoy A.S.F.14. Troops for Malta. Arrived 6/2. (N.O.I.C. Port Said 0919/7) Chiefs of Staff No. 54 (1 S.L. 1036/7 to C. in C. Med) See Mediterranean Volume.

ADINDA. Dutch Tanker (3359 tons) mined off Tobruk today. Damage not stated. (Trade Divn. Cas. Sect).

Convoy A.S. 14. Arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Port Said 1503/7 amended 1047/9).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta Air Raid.

From 1810/6 to 2025/6 3 enemy aircraft flew over in very bad weather. Bombs dropped Luqa Kalafrana and Delimara causing no damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. Med. 1715/7).

Suez Canal Minesweeping.

My 2315/5. Canal has been Swept as follows. (Details of Ships mined.) 16 mines so far accounted for. Some bombs dropped also. (C. in C. Med. 2023/7 to Admty).

Minesweeping Situation.

Again invite attention to serious position in Mediterranean regarding minesweeping craft. I now have following ports to keep swept: Malta, Alexandria, the Canal ports, Haifa, Suda Bay, Tobruk, and the advance of the Army to Benghazi now necessitates endeavour to develop that port to maximum extent possible. Now have for contact minesweeping only six twin screw mine sweepers (? eight) trawlers and a few local fitted auxiliary sweepers. M.S. flotilla for magnetic minesweeping two double A. trawlers, four LL whalers, (142 2nd M.S. group) just arrived, three Hoppers local fitted but still without generators coming from U.K. and two drifters fitted LL at Malta. Also four corvettes which are urgently required for escort work and which in any case cannot use LL sweep in less that 8 or 10 fathoms.

(iv) In view of time taken to send sweepers from U.K. in present circumstances request very urgent consideration may be given to withdrawing (? craft) from stations near to Meditn. where threat from mines is not serious. (v) I have no further news of ABERDARE and HARROW from China since C. in C. China's 0405/7/1. The 109th M.S. Group is not likely to arrive till well into March and BATHHURST and LISMORE are not due till April vide Naval Board, Melbourne, 1130/30/1.
(C. in C. Med 2331/7 to Admty)

/Mining.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.2.1941. Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Mining. Counter Messages.

The seriousness of mining in Suez Canal will be clear from S.B.N.O. Suez Canal signalled reports. Vital importance of canal to Middle East War effort warrants most energetic measures being taken to remedy situation. Requirements are:-
(a)A large number of balloons and personnel for them.
(b) Plenty of short range A/A weapons such as (7U) P and P A C projectors, and any form of light guns with personnel to man them.
(c) More D.W.I. 719.
(d) Cables, batteries etc. for making L.L. Sweep and skids.
(e) Non magnetic shallow water diving suit.
(f) Echo sounding set.
(g) The latest devices for dealing with acoustic mines.

2. Request urgent consideration be given to possibility of rushing out above equipment by cruiser via Cape.
(C. in C. Med. 2333/7 to Admty).

Turkey Anti-Invasion Device.

A.L.M./L.D. 01407/40 of 22/11/40. Is there any objection communicating contents of this letter confidentially to Turkish?. M.A. Ankara, has seen letter and thinks Turkish might make good use of power of anti-Invasion device in Bosphorus and Sea of Marmora area.
(C. in C. Med, 2359/7 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Information from prisoners.	Desperate situation in Italian East Africa. Plan of invasion of U.K. (C. in C. M.E. 0215/7).
Operation "Composition". Force K.	Units taking part in operation "COMPOSITION" are to form Force K. Ships who are required to decode such signals will be so informed by S.N.O. Red Sea. (C. in C. E.I. 0532Z/7 to E.I. Sqdn).
HAWKINS.	HAWKINS proceeding Aden to Mombasa routed through positions 010° 20', 052° 10' and 003° N. 048° speed 25 knots, expected to arrive Mombasa about 0900Z/9. (C. in C. E.I. 0658Z/7 to ENTERPRISE, HECTOR CAPETOWN).
Kismayu.	Activity among German ships. (C. in C. E.I. 0748Z/7) See German Merchant Ships.
U.S.8. U.S.9.	Re U.S. 8 ships required for transhipment of U.S. 9 at Bombay. (P.S.T.O. E.I. Bombay 0932Z/7 to C. in C.E.I) See Operations Volume.
W.S. 5B, B.A. One. U.S. 9.	Various sailing arrangements. (C. in C. E.I. 1128Z/7).
CAPETOWN.	To patrol off Kismayu. (C. in C. E.I. 0942Z/7 to CAPETOWN). See Operations Volume.
S/M attack on Red Sea Convoy.	My 1804/5. RATNAGIRI also heard 5 under water explosions at 2315Z in approx. same position (C. in C. E.I. 1056Z/7).
BAMORA. BANKURA.	Transports. Sailed Bombay for Aden 7/2. Details. (S.S.T.O. Bombay 1132Z/7).

/ESQUILINO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (contd).

ESQUILINO. KAROA. NIEUW HOLLAND.	Ships carrying personnel etc. requiring protection. (C. in C. E.I. 11362/7).
Reunion.	C. in C. E.I. 11062/7 See Operations Volume.
Operation "Canvas".	My 0650/1. Modified plan. (C. in C. E.I. 13002/7 to Admty). Date of D.I. (C. in C. E.I. 13022/7). See Operations Volume.
S/M reported off Italian Somaliland.	A native source of information hitherto reliable and recent D.F. bearing point to possibility of an Italian submarine working off Kismayu Mogadishu area. Air r.c. of Kismayu on 6/2 failed to confirm. (C. in C. E.I. 11242/7 to Force T).
DOMINION MONARCH.	S.S.T.O. Egypt (Port Said) 1733/7 Concur. DOMINION MONARCH will proceed from Aden to Mombasa unescorted. (C. in C. E.I. 1248Z/7th).
East Africa.	Possibility of Italian surrender. (C. in C. E.I. 1416Z/7) See Operations Volume.
CAPETOWN. off Mogadishu.	My 1236/6. No shipping sighted Mogadishu on 7/2. (CAPETOWN 1740Z/7 C. in C. E.I. 2120Z/7 to Force T).
ALICE MOLLER.	My 0416 (re overdue shipping) Arrived Aden. (C. in C. E.I. 1726Z/7).
INGRIA.	Sailed from New York 24/1. with (cargo) for Mombasa agreed. (D.S.T. 2319/7 to D.S.T.O. Mombasa).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Minelaying. Admty 1845/9/1. Proposals. (C. in C. China 0457Z/7).
See Operations Volume.

THORSHOVDI.
FERNWOOD. Have you any news of Norwegian ships THORSHOVDI and FERNWOOD due Yokohama? (D.T.D. 1759/7 to Consul General Kobe).

SALABANGKA.
BENCLEUCH. Freightship SALABANGKA sailed Clyde 1/2 with following stores for Singapore.
2. Freightship BENCLEUCH sailed Tees 1/2 with following stores for Singapore.
(D. of S.T. 2320/7 to Commodore, Malaya).

America & West Indies.

LETITIA.
grounding. LETITIA grounded on Lichfield Shoal in Halifax approach in thick weather at 0125/7 Stokehold and No. two and four holds flooded. Every effort being made to lighten ship sufficiently to tow ship off at high water today.
(R.A.3. B.S. 0953/7 to Admty).

Convoy
Route. Can it be assumed your 2129/6 is not intended to affect your 1933/11/9/40?(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1136/7 to Admty).

ANJA. NORFOLK's explanation of his routeing Fin. ANJA in his 1743/5 is ship had neither chart of Faroes nor ship warrant and master did not wish to wait for permission for issue of chart and wished to keep as far North as possible. NORFOLK's attention has been drawn to Notice to Mariners 1768 of 1940.
(N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1214/7 to Admty).

/Convoy.....

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

Convoy S.C.22.	Intend sailing SEVERN as ocean escort, leaving convoy in 25° W. and returning to Halifax. (R.A.3. B.S. 1216/7).
T.C.9.	Reply to Admty 1832/6. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa 1253/7) See Operations Volume.
Broadcasting Receivers in Merchant Ships.	Your 1203/4. Concur in principle with your proposals. Legislation to implement them will be introduced shortly. (D.S.D. 1857/7 to C.N.S. Canada).
Seaplane for Free French.	French Naval seaplane has arrived at Castries Saint Lucia from Martinique to join Free French. Embark sufficient fuel and oil for aircraft to fly to Trinidad and proceed to Saint Lucia A.M/8. Then proceed as in my 1121/6. If aircraft cannot be flown to Trinidad remain at Saint Lucia and report situation. (C. in C. A.W.I. 2001/7 to CARADOC).
Troop Transport.	D. of S.T's 2135/20/1. Transport is required for 150 Free French volunteers from French Guiana, and a small number from Windward Islands, to West Africa. D. of S.T. proposes NEW NORTHLAND be used and that vessel be supplied additional rifles or pistols as recommended by Governor British Guiana. 4. If proposals suitable request you will co-ordinate arrangements. (D.O.D.(F) 2233/7 to C. in C. A.W.I. and S.A)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

LIVORNO. GALILEA.	German Ship. 7/2 arrival Gandia LIVORNO arrival Castellon De La Plana GALILEA. (Valencia 0400/7).
TANNENFELS. UCKERMARK.	Air reconnaissances reveal considerable activity among ships in Kismayu. TANNENFELS recently repainted, is reported to have sailed between 30/1 and 5/2. A second unknown ship may also have sailed. This might be UCKERMARK since Italian situation may have decided German ships to seek refuge elsewhere. Most probable destinations (a) Madagascar (b) Marmagoa (c) Portuguese East Africa. (d) Japan via Timor Sea. Persian Gulf considered unlikely. (C. in C. E.I. 0748Z/7 to E.I. Station).
PLUS.	Arrived from Vigo in ballast 6/2. (Bilbao 1305/7 1824/7).
NORDERNEY.	My 2053Z/6 Para reports NORDERNEY would be able to sail at short notice but no signs of preparation. Brazilian press today states she will load German cargo awaiting shipment. (S.O.I. Montevideo 2234Z/7).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CITTA DI BARI.	Arrived 7/2 Trieste. (Susak T.H.I. 1300/7).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

7.2.1941.
Friday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported.

1800/6. Submarine sighted submerged steering East six miles South Sao Miguel Azores 1800/6 (A.1).
(N.A. Lisbon 1829/7 to Admty)
Informing TUNA (F.O.C.N.A. 2258/7).

1743. D/F bearings indicate Italian U-Boat in area 55° 00'N. to 56° 30' N. 19° 00'W. to 23° 00'W. at 1743 B.S.T.
(D.D.I.C. 1908/7).

2348. Following has been read:- SOS Position 55.14 N. 18.57 W. Submarine sighted astern.
(ELMDEAN. 2348/7).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

No evidence since 3/2 of any U/B to North Westward of Hebrides, but one or two U/Bs. may have begun their patrols without being reported.

German.
1 possibly still between Shetlands and Faroes.
1 within 100 miles of 58° 30'N. 21° W.
1 within 40 miles of 55° 30' N. 19° 40'W.
1 within 40 miles of 56°N. 16°W.
1 about 52°N. - 53°N. west of 25° W.
1 about 51° N. 15° W. probably bound for Lorient.
1 possibly still near Azores.

Italian.
1 in N.W. Approaches whereabouts unknown.
1 may be returning to Gironde from patrol near Azores.
(D.D.I.C. 1348/7).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.2.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Enemy Cruiser sighted

At 1100 today RAMILLIES in 52° 55' N., 3¼° W., sighted very briefly at 20 miles distance the mast and top of a warship possibly a German HIPPER class Cruiser apparently steering 030°.

Operations by Home Fleet

The HIPPER class Cruiser, which is believed to have left Brest between 1st and 4th Feb. could have reached this position as could also the ADMIRAL SCHEER if, as is thought probable she was the raider which sank SS EUYLOCHUS on 29/1 in 8° 15' N., 25° 14' W. The ADMIRAL SCHEER has possibly been away from home for four months and may be returning to Germany.

The following dispositions were made. C.S. 2 in GALATEA, with AURORA, ARETHUSA, NIGERIA, REPULSE, MATABELE, PUNJABI and ESKIMO sailed from Scapa at 1830 today for a position in 62° 30' N., 16° W., followed at 2000 by C. in C., H.F., in NELSON with DIDO, MAURITIUS, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE and TARTAR for a position 70 miles 140° from the above. The two forces will aim to reach these positions during daylight tomorrow, make ground to the North Eastward during the night 9/10 and, failing other developements, regain them at 0900/10; intending to maintain the positions subsequently by day in order to take action on any air reports received.

Special Air Patrols are to watch the Iceland Faeroes passage by night and during daylight on the 9th and 10th; and air patrols are also to be flown from Iceland during daylight, RODNEY and KING GEORGE V are to operate from daylight on the 10th in about 65° N., 8° 30' W.

20 German Warships, including one Battleship, were reported on the 6th to be lying in Kristiansand, South Norway; and to deal with these the S/M's URGE, CACHALOT, STURGEON, MINERVE and SEALION have been ordered to patrol off the S.W. coasts of Norway.

/Meanwhile.....

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.2.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands-Contd.

Meanwhile F.O. 18th C.S. in EDINBURGH from Convoy W.S. 6 at Greenock and 4 destroyers of the 5th D.F. from Plymouth have sailed tonight for Scapa to await orders from C. in C., H.F.

British Air Activity

37 Wellingtons attacked docks and shipping at Boulogne last night. 27 Hampdens attacked docks and shipping at Dunkirk; Damage was done amongst small vessels. Minor attacks were made on Calais and Ostend.

Petrol stores at Flushing and Petroleum Harbour at Rotterdam were attacked today.

Routine and special patrols by Coastal Command today were restricted by bad weather. The Norwegian Coast was patrolled from Bergen to Stavanger, and three Beauforts flew an offensive R.C. from Stavanger to Egersund. One of these Beauforts unsuccessfully attacked one of two destroyers escorting a convoy of 4 merchant ships south of Obrestad.

Enemy Air Activity

No attacks on shipping are reported today.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

8.2.1941.
Saturday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining.

There were no reports of enemy aircraft minelaying last night.

SS HENRI JASPAR was mined today off Cardiff and was beached. The port was closed this afternoon as were also Barry and Bristol Channel ports to the eastward. Mines were exploded off Swansea.

Workington (Liverpool area) was closed soon after midnight 7/8 until this evening

Mines were detonated today in the Thames Estuary off Milford Haven and in the Wash.

East Indies

CAPETOWN was apparently attacked by a submarine this morning (unsuccessfully) in Mozambique Channel. A dhow which was believed to be acting as a decoy for U-Boat was rendered useless for further activities of this nature by gunfire from H.D.V. ALDGATE .

America & West Indies

Preparations for sea by Axis ships at Santos have ceased and all ships appear to have reverted to normal conditions.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Iceland Control of Aircraft. — Your 1741/6. Confirmed that aircraft allotted to Iceland will be under the C.O.C. Iceland for operational purposes but a re-arrangement will be necessary as Iceland becomes a more important base for air forces. (Head of M. 1936/8 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. — At 1130/8.
(D.C.1154/8.
At 2230/8.
(D.C.2334/8).

Movements.

ATHERSTONE
COTTESMORE
KEPPEL. — Return to Lough Foyle.
(N.O.I.C. Londonderry 0820/8).

BEAGLE. — Return forthwith.
(R.A.D. H.F. 0832/8 to BEAGLE).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler lines tonight. 3 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1335/8).

URGE. — Sailed 1400/8. Route.
(A.C.O.S. 1428/8).

Submarines. — Positions at 0800/9.
(F.O.S. 1722/8, 1903/8, 2137/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

SEALION. My 1634. Delayed 24 hours.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2024/8).

CANTON
CILICIA. C.in C. S.A. 1201/6. advisable to postpone the boiler cleaning of CANTON.
CILICIA will not now be able to sail for Freetown before (date).
(D.D.O.F. 2209/8).

REPULSE. Have reduced 16 knots to avoid damage.
(REPULSE 2339/8 to F.O.C.2.C.S.)

Operations.

Operation P.X. Operation postponed a further 24 hours.
(C.in C. Nore 1035/8 to EREBUS).

Enemy cruiser sighted. At 1100Z in 052° 55'N., 34° W. had brief glimpse of mast and top of warship possibly HIPPER Class. Bearing and distance on sight 330° 20 miles. Estimated course 030° .
RAMILLIES 1150Z/8 to Admty).

Dispositions Ordered. RAMILLIES in 052° 55'N., 034° W. at 1100Z/8 reports masts and tops of possible HIPPER Class Cruiser bearing 330° 20 miles estimated course 030° .

(ii) C.S.2. in GALATEA with REPULSE, NIGERIA, ARETHUSA, AURORA and 3 destroyers is to sail at 1800/8 and proceed to a mid position (X) 062° 30'N., 016° W.

(iii) C.in C. H.F. in NELSON with MAURITIUS, DIDO and 3 destroyers will proceed at 1900 similarly 70 miles 140° from position (X).
(C.in C. H.F. 1703/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Part two and final. My 1709.

(iv) Forces will aim to reach the above positions in daylight/9 and make ground to the North Eastward during night, turning in time to reach the original line at 0900/10 failing other developments.

(v) Subsequent intention is to maintain a position near original line by day in order to take action on air reports.

(vi) RODNEY and KING GEORGE V will be operating similarly 065° N., 008° 30'W., from daylight/10.

(vii) Fuel is available for returning to Skaale Fiord and Sollum Voe.

(viii) Failing other instructions F.O.C. 2nd C.S. Force is to leave their area at 2300/11, RODNEY'S Force at 2000/12, and return to harbour.
(C.in C. H.F. 1709/8).

RODNEY with KING GEORGE V and 6 destroyers is to proceed as necessary to comply with para.6. of my 1709/8.

Position is to be adjusted if necessary in the light of any information from air reconnaissance.
(C.in C. H.F. 1718/8 to RODNEY).

20 German Warships reported in Kristiansand. Orders to STURGEON.

20 German Warships including 1 battleship reported in Kristiansand South (South Norway) on 6/2. B.2. Patrol about 10 miles off Coast between Lister and Lindesnes. Object to attack German Warships and transports. It is particularly important not to compromise your position, and coastal traffic should not be interfered with.
(F.O.S. 1901/8 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

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(F.O.S. 1901/8 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

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(C.in C. H.F. 1709/8).

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Position is to be adjusted if necessary in the light of any information from air reconnaissance.
(C.in C. H.F. 1718/8 to RODNEY).

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(F.O.S. 1901/8 to STURGEON).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Orders to D.5.

D.5. and all available destroyers of 5th D.F. are to raise steam and proceed to Scapa with all convenient despatch.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1916/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Orders to C.S.18.

If satisfied that C.O.BIRMINGHAM has all necessary information regarding W.S.6. it is preferable that you proceed to Scapa in EDINBURGH. Otherwise BIRMINGHAM is to be detached.
(1st S.L. 1945/8 to C.S.18).

One 6/inch cruiser from Convoy W.S.6. and 4 destroyers of 5th Flotilla have been ordered to Scapa to await your orders. Further signal indicating their E.T.A. at Scapa will be made.
(1st S.L. 1947/8 to C.in C. H.F.)

Forces sail.

Scapa departures 1830 C.S.2. in GALATEA with AURORA, ARETHUSA, NIGERIA, REPULSE, MATABELE, PUNJABI and ESKIMO. 2000 C.in C. H.F. in NELSON with DIDO, MAURITIUS, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE and TARTAR 2030 SOMALI for Rosyth.
(A.C.O.S. 2054/8).

Dispositions of Submarines.

URGE proceed with despatch to patrol about 10 miles off Stadtlandet. CACHALOT proceed with despatch to patrol within 15 miles of 64° 35'N., 09° 45'E. CACHALOT may receive further orders to lay mines on bank about 5 miles North of Kya Light.
(F.O.S. 2114/8 to URGE, CACHALOT).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

My 1722/8. Amend following items to read

A. CACHALOT vicinity 65° 38'N., 04° East, proceeding on surface for patrol near 64° 35'N., 09° 45'E.

B. URGE vicinity 61 10'N., 01 40'W. proceeding on surface for patrol off Stadtlandet.

C. STURGEON vicinity 58° 10'N., 05° 30'E. proceeding submerged by day for patrol between Lister and Lindesnes.

E. MINERVE vicinity 58° 55'N., 03° 06'E. proceeding submerged by day for patrol in Zone C.3.

F. SEALION vicinity 57°40'N., 01° 05'E. proceeding submerged by day through 56° 40'N., 01° E. E.T.A. War Channel 0600/10. (F.O.S. 2137/8).

EDINBURGH. Admiralty 1945/8. EDINBURGH will pass through gate at 2300, 1800/9. E.T.A. (C.S.18, 2143/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

KELLY
KASHMIR
KIPLING. Sailed 2135/8. E.T.A.Scapa, A.M./10. (C.in C. W.A. 2149/8).

EDINBURGH Sailed. Sailed F.O.18 C.S. in EDINBURGH as by Admiralty 1945/8. E.T.A. Scapa 1800/8. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2315/8).

Orders to Submarines. A. HIPPER Class cruiser reported Atlantic today may be returning to Norwegian coast. 20 German Warships reported being in Kristiansand(S) South on 6/2 may come north to meet the cruiser.

B. Object is to attack and then report enemy main units. Do not therefore disclose position by attacking lesser units or coastal traffic.

C. MINERVE is to patrol about 10 miles West of Kors Fiord.

/D

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations . (Contd.)

Orders to Submarines. (Contd.)

D. CACHALOT will not be ordered to lay non flooder mines off France Havet. She may be required to lay F.D.29 on completion of patrol off France Havet.
(V.A.S. 2359/8 to CACHALOT, URGE, MINERVE, STURGEON.).

British Air Activity.

Bombing Restrictions.

Capt: (S) 2.1007/3. Request immediate T.B.R. within 20 miles of 056° 47'N., 007° 57'W. until 1400/9.
(C.in C. W.A. 0623/8 to H.Q.C.C.)

Patrols.

Following Air Patrols being flown today.
A/S Patrol of Minches during daylight.
FAIR, BERT, IPOP A.M.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0912/8).

Three Beaufort aircraft left wick 1030 for offensive patrol between Stavanger and Lister.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1050/8).

RAMILLIES 1150/8. Request Air Patrol, object to report and shadow enemy warship if she attempts the Iceland Faroes passage by night.

2. Following are requirements. Request, they may be met as far as practicable.

(A) Patrols similar to R1 and R2 shifted to a line passing through position 60° 30'N., 16° W. in Z direction 310° .

To be maintained during daylight 9th and 10th. The Northwestern Section and the afternoon patrol are the more important requirements.

/B.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

(B) Patrol similar to Fugle shifted to cover line between 63° 20'N., 8° W. and 64° 50'N., 12° 20'W.

To be maintained during daylight on 10th, and 11th.

3. Request patrol (B) may be adjusted to intercept enemy after daylight 10th according to any enemy reports received on 9th.
(C.in C. H.F. 1744/8 to C.in C. Rosyth).

Crossover patrol will be flown by 2 Sunderland A/C between 61° 28'N., 18° 20'W. and 62° 20'N., 20° 30'W. from 1400/9.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1800/8).

50820 Cypher M.O.8/2. C.in C. Coastal Command requests 98 Squadron carry out cross-over patrol during daylight hours daily until further notice through following positions, and return to base One aircraft to leave S.J.Q.A. 2542 one hour before dawn 9/2 and other aircraft at intervals of 3½ hours. If possible also keep watch on Denmark Strait. Object to locate enemy cruiser believed breaking through into Norway.
(War Office (M.O.8) 2115/8 to Iceland Force).

Cross-Over patrols will be flown by 2 Sunderland aircraft between 061° 28'N., 018° 20'W. and 062°20'N., 020° 30'W. from 1400/9 - 1800/9.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2310/8).

O.545 Cypher 8/2. Your 50820 (M.O.8).8/2. Only 6 air crews available in 98 Squadron. Will carry out spirit of your instructions as far as resources permit.
(G.O.C.Iceland, 2345/8 to War Office).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Boulogne
Dunkirk
Ostend
Calais.

During night 7/8 37 Wellingtons attacked docks and shipping at Boulogne. Many bursts explosions and fires were seen in and around the docks, large buildings gutted and large fires seen.

26 Hampdens attacked docks and shipping at Dunkirk, Ostend and Calais. At Dunkirk many bursts seen in the docks. One A/C observed small vessels blown into the air. (H.Q.B.C. 1430/8).

804 Squadron.

Q.171. 8/2. Your 1709/70. Agree to your moving 804 from 14 Group to Yeovilton. (H.Q.F.C. 1810/8 to Admty).

801 Squadron.

All available aireraft of 801 Squadron are to be prepared to move to Hatston at one hours notice from 0800/9 and operate against ship target after arrival. (D.N.A.D. 2121/8).

Enemy Air Activity.

WAZIRISTAN. (Bombed 2/2.)

Your 1721/7. BANDIT, WAZIRISTAN, LORD MIDDLETON in company approx. position at 0001/8 059° 56'N., 009° W. course 137 degs. 6 knots.
(BANDIT 0015/8 to A.C.O.S.)

MARAUDER is to take over the tow. BANDIT is to be sent back to Scapa as soon as you are satisfied that one Tug is necessary for the safety of WAZARISTAN.
(A.C.O.S. 1104/8 to DOUGLAS).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Arrived LOCH LATHAICH at 1700 moored alongside BARON RENFREW 1730 assisted in disposal of bombs at anchor 1845. BARON RENFREW 0270, Port List, water in engineroom and (doubtful) (but?) probably ballast in wash-over tunnel as apparently vessel is not making water. Require assistance, RENFREW difficult to tow with present list. (TENACITY, 2000/8).

CALAFATIS (bombed 4/2).

Your 2335/7. Have ordered ERICA to search for boats independently as I have insufficient fuel for extra journey. My approximate position 055 48'N., 009 28'W. Am endeavouring to rejoin convoy. (CAMELIA 0100/8 to C.in C. W.A.)

Mining.

Workington.

R.N.O. Workington reports Port of Workington closed owing to enemy mines. T.O.O.2135/7. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0146/8).

Operations P.W.3. P.W.4.

Operation P.W.3. is cancelled. P.W.4 (Details) to be carried out as soon as M.T.B's are ready and weather conditions are suitable. (C.in C. Nore, 1032/8 to BEEHIVE).

Thames Estuary.

S.A. mine detonated at 2116/7 in 135° E., Shingles Buoy 1.8 miles. (Capt: M/S Sheerness 1048/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Harwich Area Search.

Cancel my 1156/7/2. Intend Search of War Channel by SELKIRK (S.O.) SPEEDWELL, ELGIN, HUSSAR and SUTTON. (Details) 0800/9 to 1430/9. Request Fighter Protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1045/8).

Your 1209/3 and 1144/4. Four fast minesweepers searched 6 cables either side of centre line. Results. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1609/8 to C.in C. Nore).

Milford Haven.

At 1610/7 Mine detonated in 065° St. Ann's Head Light 9.8 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1147/8).

At 1055/8 one Mine detonated in 256° Great Castle Head Low Light 12.5 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1819/8).

Operation B.S.51.

Details. My TEVIOT BANK escorted by one destroyer of the 20th D.F. as detailed by D.20. C.in C. Nore, is requested to arrange air escort in conjunction with C.in C. Rosyth. To be carried out on 10/2 or as soon after as practicable. (V.C.N.S. 1528/8).

Liverpool.

Instructions for entering. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1630/8 D.T.D. 1931/8).

Your TO.7569/40. 5 mines 1030/4. 1040/4. 1115/4. 0900/5. 1200/6. Details. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1744/8 to Admty).

Cardiff.

No ships are to be sailed to or from Cardiff until further orders. (F.O.I.C.Cardiff 1635/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Bristol Channel Ports. HENRI JASPAR mined and beached.

(2) HENRI JASPAR (Belgian) beached in 51° 23'N., 3° 9' 30" W.

(3) Barry and Bristol Channel ports to the eastward are closed.
(F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1737/8).

3. Acoustic mines exploded simultaneously by Erimo with Jury rigged S.A. gear at 1125 in 083° 1.8 miles, 120° 1.3 miles, 176° 2.0 miles all from Flatholm Light.

Another at 1430 187 degs. distant 1.25 miles from Flatholm Light Red 010° distant 220 yards.
(N.O.I.C. Swansea 1840/8).

Iceland.

One British Mark XX mine rendered safe at Fell 066°05'N., 021° 33'W. Two Mark XX mines sunk in 066° 16'N., 023° 49'W. and 066° 12'N., 023° 56'W. respectively.
Unidentified mine ashore near Siglufjordur 066° 12'N., 018° 50'W.
Many other unconfirmed reports of drifting mines on North Coast. Mines almost certainly broken adrift from field in Denmark Straits as result of recent heavy weather.
(F.O.Iceland 1859/8).

S.N.7.B.
S.N.68.A.

My 1428/3. Consequent on defect to MENESTHEUS, only 3 minelayers will be available for next few operations. Propose if cover is available to sail 1900/12 and lay S.N.7.B. 68A (positions) both on 14/2.
(R.A.M.L. 1929/8).

INTREPID
ICARUS
IMPULSIVE.

1. To embark gun armament and reduced outfits of mines with all despatch and come to two hours notice for steam.

2. D.20 report when ready.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1952/8 to D.20).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

1. As soon as Humber is open tomorrow Sunday 9th February INTREPID and IMPULSIVE are to be sailed for Scapa to await orders.

2. Each ship will carry gun armament and reduced outfit of twenty six mines.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2221/8).

The Wash. — H.S.L.142 detonated an acoustic mine at 1650/8 in 53° 08'N., 0° 40' 30" E. up.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 2109/8).

Enemy Intelligence.

E/Boats. — Indication of possible presence of E/Boats off North Foreland at 2318.
(C.in C. Nore 0001/8 to WORCESTER).

Fighter Command report indications of a possible E/Boat approaching coast in direction of Haisborough at 2025.
(C.in C. Nore 2041/8).

German, Norwegian Transit Traffic. — On account of Trelleborg-Sassnitz ferry being stopped by ice, trains of 12 to 15 coaches of unarmed German troops now arrive and depart Helsingborg daily.

Danish ferries, of which 3 or 5 are working convoy troops across as follows.

These ferries are apparently degaussed and proceed shortest route across Sound, to Helsingor, where, I understand, troops entrain for passage over Great Belt.

Personal observation. A.One.
(N.A.Stockholm 1005/8 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence. (Contd.)

Brest.

No pocket battleship or other new naval units in Port Militaire. Destroyer probably present. Sub. of 280 ft. seen at usual mooring.
(Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 1715/8 to H.Q.C.C.)

Technical.

Use of Smoke.

Admty's. 1706/23/1.

1. The use of smoke, particularly at night, is worth further investigation. Information on the following points is requested.

2. Request A.C.O.S. may be kept informed of progress or result of any smoke trials which may have been carried out recently in the South.
(C.in C. H.F. 1117/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

F.N. and F.S.	Events. Amendment to 1308/1. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1225/8).
F.S.5.	Numbers. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0932/8). Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1621/8).
F.S.6.	Sailed 1400/8, 22 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1551/8). Ships Joining. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1721/8).
E.N.69.	Sailing telegram, escorts, code words. (N.C.S.O. Methil 0951/8).
F.N.2.	Humber ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1622/8).
F.N.3.	0940/8, 40 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1203/8) Ships Joining. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1729/8).
C.W.25.	1205/8, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1210/8).
O.B.283.	Sailed 1230/8. 17 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1251/8).
W.N.U.81.	Sailed 1530/8, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1610/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.0283.	0900/9, 2 ships, Escort. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1653/8).
F.N.1.	Tyne ships arrived. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1803/8).
Escorted M/V's.	(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1837/8).
F.S.7.	Sailed. 7 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2337/8).
W.N.82.	Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1351/8).
E.N.U.68.	Arrived. 12 Ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1249/8).

Ocean Convoys.

H.X.U.105.	Arrived less BLACK HERON and NEW TORONTO. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1152/8).
O.G.52. H.G.52.	Escorts. (C.in C. W.A. 1205/8).
H.X.104. B.H.X.104. B.X.105.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1940/8, N.C.S.O. Clyde, 2125/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

SUDERHOLM
B.H.X.104.

Appears SUDERHOLM, Straggler from B.H.X.104 proceeded south of Hebrides whereas convoy was routed North via Minches. Investigate and report if Master complied with his route instructions.
(C.in C. W.A. 1113/8 to F.O.I.C. Greenock).

Military Convoys.

W.S.6.

Screen station as follows.
(Capt: D.7. 1027/8).

Arrived RESTIGOUCHE, ST. LAURENT with seven ships from Liverpool for W.S.6.
(F.O. Belfast 1030/8).

Water Tanker CYMBULA which has returned to Liverpool with engine defects will not sail with W.S.6. Further instructions for sailing this ship will be signalled.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 1749/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

THALA. (British 4399 tons). Boats in readiness. Ship not yet abandoned.
(Wick Radio 0323/8).

Ashore S.E. corner island of South Uist West Coast Scotland. Preparing to abandon ship.
(Port Patrick Radio 0356/8).

Proceed with despatch to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0435/8 to SCHELDE).

Detail one trawler to stand by THALA.
SEAMAN is being sent from Stornoway.
(C.in C. W.A. 0535/8 to GLEANER).

20 feet water in forepeak and tow high water but useless. Tug cannot do anything. Awaiting further orders.
(SCHELDE 1750/8).

MACLAREN. (British 2330 tons). Struck Southern Colonsay Island. Require tug. Rudder gone.
(C.G.Port Patrick 0344/8).

Proceed to assist.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0500/8 to SALVONIA).

Now have MACLAREN in tow.
(SALVONIA 1400/8).

Your 1400/8. If ship is seaworthy proceed to Rothesay Bay.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1550/8 to SALVONIA).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

Life-Boat seen.	Keep look out for life boat(s) last seen in 55° 14'N., 014° 35'W. 6/2. Time unknown. (C.in C. W.A. 0747/8 and 0929/8 to GEORGETOWN).
LETITIA.	My 0953/7. Attempt to tow off yesterday failed. Gale now blowing. Anticipated ship will be total loss. (F.O.S.B.S. 0926/8).
DELAPOLE.	(Trawler). Sailed tug KROOMAN at 0950/8 to assist A/T DELAPOLE aground Corton Sands. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1007/8).
SANDHURST.	Departure for Tyne. SANDHURST in tow tug WATERMEYER escorted by SHEARWATER with convoy F.N.3. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1137/8).
CYMBULA.	(British Tanker, 8082 tons). Your 0935. CYMBULA has returned with defects. (C.in C. W.A. 1203/8 to RESTIGOUCHE).
ANASTASSIOS PATERAS.	Arrived Belfast Lough having lost convoy, slight deck damage. (N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1318/8).
Burning Ship.	Detach one ship to investigate ship reported burning in 055° 18'N., 012° 58'W. at 1325. (C.in C. W.A. 1453/8 to ANTELOPE).
TAI HING.	Derelict stern half in 056° 20'N., 012° 45'W. Drifting slowly north eastwards dangerous to navigation. Wreck is floating well and appears salvageable. No sign of survivors. (WINCHELSEA 1713/8 to C.in C. W.A.)
BOADICEA.	My 1223/5. BOADICEA delayed owing to defects. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1807/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

PRINS FREDERIK HENDRIK.	Detach 1 ship to assist. In distress in 0540 20'N., 017 030'W. at 2014. (C.in C. W.A. 2103/8 to BELMONT).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Operation "Ration".

Your 1737/4. No objections.
(A.C.N.S.(T), 1725/8).

Convoy.

French destroyer L'ALCYON passed Gibraltar westbound at 1020/8 escorting French M/V's LORRAINE, 9512 tons and CAPITAINE ST. MARTIN 3450 tons.
(D.O.R. 10/2.)

North Atlantic.

Interception of Danish Ships.

Your 1914/4/1. Off Cartegena would be preferable. Subject to other commitments anticipate interception can be arranged. Important to know exact date when they will be ready to sail. At least three days notice, must be given of actual sailing in order operations may be cancelled if no forces available.
(F.O.I.C. Gibraltar, 1026/8 to N.A.Madrid).

General.

COLDHARBOUR.

U.S. proceeding to Cadiz with Red Cross supplies. Route. Markings.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1245/8).

KENYA SOBIESKI.

Re sailing.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1314/8).
See Operations Volume.

Delay in Discharge of Ships at Gibraltar.

Your 1721/2. Governing factors (shortage of Labour inadequate cranage etc.) Every effort being made to improve matters.
(F.O.C.N.A.1620/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.6.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Submarine sighted 1755/6.

F.O.C.N.A. 1717/8. See U/Boat Campaign.

South Atlantic.

HERMES and ENTERPRISE.

Your 1232/6. I concur.
(C.in C. S.A. 0954/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

Enemy Unit.

My 1157N/7. With additional bearings from the U.K. indicated position is within 150 miles of 10° N., 35° W., 20% within 700 miles of same position 75%, elsewhere 5%. Further bearings from Ascension and Simonstown suggest following position at 0457Z/8. Within 150 miles of 10°N., 25° W., 20%, within 500 miles of this position 60%, elsewhere 20%. This may refer to a raider auxiliery 50%, raider itself 20% or some other transmitter 10%. Suggest on very slight grounds that this raider first received or sent a message from a position near the Meridan of Ascension at 1936Z/1/1. (C.in C. S.A. 1041/8).

D/F bearings at 1718Z/6 indicate enemy surface unit within 150 miles 010° N., 035° W, reliability 20%. At 0457Z/8 indicate surface unit within 150 miles 010° N., 023° W. reliability 20%. Bearings possibly refer to two different units.
(C.in C. S.A. 1051N/8 to S.A. Squadron).

Transport for Free French Volunteers.

Admty 2233/7 no objection provided no further delay is caused to NEW NORTH LAND which is urgently required and should be sailed for Freetown from Trinidad.
(C.in C. S.A. 1315N/8 to C.in C. A.W.I.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

BULOLO, escorting S.L.65. — To proceed Greenock. (C.in C. S.A. 1625/7).

Convoy W.S.6. and Movement of French Personnel. — Re C.in C. S.A. 1752/3, F.O.C.N.A. 1800/4. Transhipment to EMPIRE TROOPER and proposing other ships. (D. of S.T.1716/8).

German Ships at Santos. — S.O.(I) Montevideo 1321Z/8, 2006Z/8. See German Merchant ships.

Dispositions. — Weekly State at 1200/8. (C.in C. S.A. 1325N/8).

COMORIN. — N.O.I.C. Bermuda's 1118/30/1. If new furnace available by the 12/3 COMORIN can be spared 14 days from this date for fitting in U.K. Then intend COMORIN should escort W.S.8. (C.in C. S.A. 1905N/8).

Mediterranean.

UPRIGHT. — Your 0046/8. (Not to Admty). Acknowledged. Proceed into harbour. UNIQUE sailed at (1730 or 2230)/7. (V.A. Malta, 0338/8 to UPRIGHT).

UNIQUE. — Carry out previous orders. UPRIGHT reports nothing of interest. (S.O.(S) Malta 0341/8 to UNIQUE).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Mining of Suez Canal.	My 1953/6. Sweeping operations have been delayed owing to defect in degaussing of sweepers. Intend to delay movements of ships by 24 hours until a.m./10. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1821/8).
Report by UPRIGHT.	UPRIGHT reports unsuccessful attack on northbound escorted merchant ship night 4/5 Feb. on same night unidentified ship made R/V with two trawlers off Kerkenah Bank and observed distant signalling. ((S) 1 1443/8 to UNIQUE).
Enemy shipping Intelligence.	Result of Aircraft R/C 8/2 Tripoli, Palermo, Trapani and sea areas. (V.A.Malta 1631/8 to S/Ms. on patrol, H.Q., R.A.F. M.E. 1715/8).
Air Raid on Malta.	Nuisance raid. No service damage or casualties. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1715/8).
Convoy B.N.14.	Arrived 7/2 and 8/2. Less EMBIRICOS NICOLAOS and JULIA. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1831/8).
Aircraft attacks on Fleet on 10/1, 11/1, 24/1.	Details, in reply to Admty 1336/5. (C.in C. Med., 1916/8). (In Lion copy only).
Attack on convoy by URSULA.	Unsuccessfully attacked convoy 3 merchant ships escorted by 2 T/B's. P.C. and S. 035° 15'N., 011° 30'E. 135° 11 knots. (URSULA 1940/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

6.8.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

ATHELSTANE. — Cancel my 0616/7. Received Undecypherable. Following is repetition of my 1321/6. Arrival ATHELSTANE. (N.O.I.C. Trincomalee. 0500Z/8).

Composition of Red Sea Forces. — My 0942/14/12/40. delete CARLISLE. (C.in C. E.I. 0534Z/9).

Mogadishu. Operation "Breach". — Your 1620Z/6. Position "Cucumbers" based on information supplied by S.O.(I) Kilindini that photographs had shown ships anchored well to northwards of leading line. (S.O. Force K, 0621Z/8 to C.in C. E.I.)

M.S. Group 109. — My 1258/3. and N.O.I.C. Durban 1525/6.

(i) M.S.Group 109 are urgently required in Mediterranean and their passage is to be hastened as much as possible. They will not now call at Mombasa but are to complete with fuel and water from Oiler APPLELEAF which will arrive Dar-es-Salaam a.m./14.

(ii) After which, and provisioning, they are to proceed to Port Victoria Seychelles and then to Aden. Request you route them accordingly. Oiler APPLELEAF is to be sailed for Port Victoria.
(C.in C. E.I. 0654Z/8 to N.O.I.C. Africa and Zanzibar.)

Zigzagging. — Ships in area 3 sailing independently are to zigzag when within 100 miles off Mombasa by day and in moonlight.
(C.in C. E.I. 0920/9 to G.B.M.S.3.)

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

Conjectured attack on CAPETOWN.

CAPETOWN while close to a dhow in 000°17'S., 043° E. at 0750Z/8 observed two under water explosions, considered to have been torpedoes fired from a submarine exploding at end of their run. My 1124/7th to Force T only refers.
(C.in C. E.I. 1412Z/8).
My 1412/8 dhow was damaged by gunfire from B.D.V. ALDGATE. If she was being used as a decoy consider she will be of little further use for the purpose.
(C.in C. E.I. 1652Z/8).

Operation "Canvas" KANDAHAR.

C.in C. E.I. 1450Z/8. See Operations Volume.

YAMAHUZI MAU.

Have removed mail from YAMAHUZI MARU and allowed her to proceed. Unable to obtain manifest. Request you will obtain copy at Bahrein.
(SEABELLE 2045/8 to S.N.O. Persian Gulf).

AUSTRALIA for East Indies.

At the request of A.C.N.B., to facilitate drafting and crossing reliefs, AUSTRALIA is to join the E.I. Station.

CORNWALL for U.K.

CORNWALL is to sail for U.K. to join Home Fleet on completion of refit.

SHROPSHIRE.

Intend SHROPSHIRE will later take the place of CORNWALL in the S.A. Command.
(1st S.L. 2300/8).

China.

Fleet Communications.

U.S.A. - Dutch - British. Inquiring Admty. policy.
(C.in C. China, 0441/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

HUSKY - VAN KINSBERGEN incident.

Occurred off Trinidad on 5/2. VAN KINSBERGEN, BISON and HUSKY were ordered by me to intercept by arrangement with Owner the two Danish ships proceeding to Carapito from St. Thomas. VAN KINSBERGEN was instructed to take BISON and HUSKY under his orders. Interception was effected about daylight/5 and Danish ships were boarded by HUSKY whilst VAN KINSBERGEN was in sight and approaching. HUSKY'S Boarding Officer ordered ships to proceed Trinidad but does not seem to have formally seized the ships in prize. Boarding parties were then placed on board by VAN KINSBERGEN, Dutch Engign was hoisted and the ships formally seized in prize. Report states that Boarding Officer from VAN KINSBERGEN was obstructed by C.O. of HUSKY who also made strong protest against hoisting of Dutch Ensign.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1132/8).

RAMILLIES report of enemy cruiser.

At 1102 in position 052° 55'N., 034° 00'W. had brief glimpse of mast and top of warship possibly German HIPPER Class. Bearing and distance on sight 330 20 miles. Estimated course 030° .
(RAMILLIES 1150Z/8 to Admty).

T.C.9.

Reply to Ottawa, 1253/7. (D.O.D.(H) 1203/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa) See Operations Volume.

Perriscope sighted by U.S.Destroyer, 1045/29.

1700/3. Navy Dept: reports search 0600/30 till 31/1 by United States S/M's destroyers and aircraft. No further information obtained. 19 hours elapsed from sighting till search began.
(N.A. Washington 1235/8).

WELLS NEWARK damaged.

NEWARK and WELLS sailed for U.K. via St. John's N.F. on 4/2 encountered heavy gale WELLS lost top mast and returned to Halifax NEWARK had condenser trouble and was towed back. Expect both ships ready to sail 13/2.
(R.A.S.B.S. 1404/8).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

8.2.1941.
Saturday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

Trinidad.	Asking whether information concerning defences is to be repeated to U.S.Officers. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1602/5).
Convoy Route.	Your 1136/7. Yes. My 1933/11/9/40 remains in force. (D.T.D. 1751/8 to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa).

Australia.

AUSTRALIA.	Your 0715/6 arrangements will be made for AUSTRALIA to join E.I.Station and for her place in the Home Fleet to be taken by another 8" Cruiser now serving abroad. (1st S.L. 2301/8 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

8. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

At Santos.

Santos reports today that ships appear to have banked fires and that there are no further signs of activity. (N.S.O.(1) Mont Video 1321Z/8.)

My 1321Z/8, Santos now reports all ships appear to have reverted to normal conditions. (N.S.O.(1) Monte Video 2006Z/8.)

MOST SECRET.

8. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SANDICHIARA. NERUCCI.	My 1143/2. First named ship reported by Split to be NERUCCI, she was still at Bar on 6/2.(Cargo) Information re cargo A.l. (II) at 1230/6/1. 1 Italian tug and 6 lighters (?) passed through Korcula Channel in territorial waters southbound. (?) A.l. (S.O.(1) Alexandria 1155/8.)
TORCELLO MAYA.	Arrived from Batoum (TORCELLO with cargo 5000 tons of gas oil. Departure for Batoum (MAYA) in ballast. (Varna 1610/8.)

MOST SECRET.

8. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

FORT CHEPANSE.	FORT CHEPANSE from Martinique bound for Casablanca may be in 031° N. 018° W, on 8/2. Speed 16 knots. If unescorted ship is to be sent in. (F.O.C.N.P. 1650/8 to Western Patrol except Trawlers.)

MOST SECRET.

8. 2. 41.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

CAPETOWN. See East Indies.

MAPLECOURT. IMPORTANT. If contact was made with MAPLECOURT report whether she was attacked by submarine and degree of reliability of report. (C. in C. W.A., 1041/8, to ERICA, CAMELIA.
MAPLECOURT was in Convoy S.C.20, with general cargo for Preston. Attacked about 250' W. of Bloody Foreland. (D.O.R.,7/1.)

SESOSTRIS. Egyptian, 2062 tons. In Convoy S.C.19, with general cargo for Liverpool, is overdue and presumed lost. Missing from convoy after U-boat attacks on 29/1. (D.S.521.)

W.B.WALKER. Your 1453 burning wreck is bow portion of W.B. WALKER. S.L.63 passed it in 055° 15' N. 013° 34' W, at 1845. Consider AYRESHIRE'S 1005/8 was reporting same wreck. (ANTELOPE 1846/8, to C. in C. W.A.)

Proceed to R.V. with SOUTHERN PRIDE in 56° 00' N 08° 15' W at 0900/9, then proceed in company to assist stern half W.B.WALKER, floating well in 56° 20' N, 12° 45' W, and drifting slowly N.E. at 1700/8. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2255/8, to SEAMAN.)

S/M's reported.
1045/29. See A & W.1.

1755
G.M.T./6. Master British Merchant Ship, reports sighting pc. of s/m. at 1755 G.M.T./6, in 034° 55' N. 013° 22' W. B.2.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1717/8.)

/S/M's Reported...

MOST SECRET.

8. 2. 1941.
Saturday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported.	Detach one destroyer to attack submarine
00. 48.	reported in position 055° 14' N, 018° 57' W, at 0048 reliable fix.(C. in C.W.A. 0127/8, to GEORGETOWN.
	My 0127. If not in contact Destroyer detached is to rejoin convoy before dark. (C. in C. W.A., 0821/8, to GEORGETOWN, ANTHONY, ANTELOPE, ACHATES.
	Mediterranean.
0845.	Coast Watcher reports enemy submarine off Cape Prosino (Amorgos) 0845, course 270° (N.A. Athens, 0933/8.)
Estimated dispositions.	German - 1 Shetlands - Faroes.1 58° N. - 60° N. 16° W. 23° W. 1 30 miles of 55° 14' N. 18° 57' W. 1 55° 14' N. 15° 56' W. 1655/6.. possibly southbound. 1,100 miles of 51° N. 26° W. 148° 30' N. 11° W. bound for Lorient. 1 from Azores approaching Lorient.
	Italian. 1 60 miles of 56° N. 21° W. 1 North Western Approaches. 1 Approaching Gironde. (D.D.I.C. 1257/8, 2208/8.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Search for Enemy Cruiser

At 1240 today a Coastal Command aircraft reported a warship, believed to be a HIPPER class cruiser, escorted by 3 destroyers 10 miles south of Lister steering S.W. at 15 knots. The W.T. report failed to get through and was not sent to C. in C., H.F. and F.O.S. until 1936 today.

RODNEY and destroyers left Scapa at 0904 today and KING GEORGE V at 1023 for operational sweep from daylight tomorrow in about 65° N., 8° 30' W.

Aircraft R.C. of Kristiansand today was unsuccessful.

F.O. Iceland had insufficient aircraft to patrol the Denmark Straits as ordered, and therefore arranged to patrol further to the westward. Nothing was sighted.

British Air Activity

Four Blenheims attacked docks and shipping today at Le Havre, Antwerp, Boulogne and Calais and petroleum store at Flushing. The remaining aircraft which were despatched abandoned the operation on account of bad weather

Aircraft reported 4 destroyers off Stavanger at 1008 and 6 destroyers and a merchant ship off Stavanger at 1008. 6 Beauforts were sent to attack with torpedoes, and torpedoed one of the 6 destroyers (fate not known)

Owing to the weather air escorts were curtailed.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

Enemy Air Activity

PYTCHLEY today shot down a H.E. 111 which approached Convoy F.S. 5 in the Thames estuary.

NEPTUNE received slight damage when attacked by a dive bomber today in the North Channel and she damaged her attacker.

SS PRINCESS MAUD was attacked 5 miles S.W. of Cornewall at 2302. No details are reported.

A Heinkel III on R.C. machine gunned troops near Reykjavik today causing 2 casualties.

Mining

It is estimated that 10 enemy aircraft were engaged in minelaying in the Bristol Channel last night.

Milford Haven was opened about noon today but was closed at 2042 owing to enemy aircraft minelaying. One mine was detonated.

Mines were also exploded in Firth of Forth and off Spurn Point.

Liverpool was closed at 2221, Holyhead at 2300, and Campbeltown at 2344.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

9.2.1941.
Sunday

SITUATION REPORT

North Atlantic

Attack on Convoy H.G.53

Convoy H.G. 53 was attacked by a U-Boat this morning about 160 miles W.S.W. of Cape St. Vincent and SS ESTRELLAND and COURLAND were sunk.

During the afternoon the convoy was bombed by 6 F.W. aircraft. SS TEJO, JURA and BRITANNIC were sunk, DAGMAR I was damaged and abandoned, and VARNA was damaged.

A Sunderland from Gibraltar was sent to escort the convoy.

South Atlantic

D/F bearings indicate German unit or units to the westward or south westward of Cape Verde Is.

Mediterranean

Operations in Libya

Five Italian auxiliary schooners which were employed on look out and/or supply service duty have been captured during the course of naval and military operations in Libya.

Mining of Suez Canal

Owing to breakdown of sweeping craft the resumption of traffic in the Canal other than tugs, lighters and small craft is postponed by a further 24 hours.

/Operation....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

Tug Situation. Your 1100/8. Other arrangements to meet temporary requirements at Loch Ewe are being made. Nine additional Commercial Tugs have recently been sent to Clyde. In view of general shortage of tugs it is necessary that Naval requirements for tugs be merged with commercial requirements. (A.C.N.S. (T) 1322/9 to F.O.I.C. Glasgow).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/9 (D.C. 1134/9) At 2330/9 (D.C. 0001/10 and 0555/10).

Scapa. Progress Report 9th February 1941. (R.A. Scapa 2015/9).

Movements.

TALISMAN.
LA CAPRICIEUSE. Sailed as by (S) 2 1232/7 and 0952/8. E.T.A. Bishops Rock 0300/11. (F.O. Greenock 1000/9).

TRIBUNE. Sailed 1742/8 LA MOQUEUSE to R/V with and escort TRIBUNE to Clyde. (C. in C. W.A. 1017/9).

PORPOISE. Report time you will R/V CUTTY SARK in 270° Barra Head 10 miles. (S.2. 1056/9 to PORPOISE). Your 1056/9 1730. (PORPOISE 1249/9).

JACKAL. Sailed 0819. E.T.A. Scapa P.M./10. (C. in C. W.A. 1117/9). Proceed to Skaale Fiord Faroes. Complete with oil and await further orders. Before leaving Minches report E.T.A. Skaale Fiord to Capt. D.(5), C. in C. H.F. and R.A.(D) H.F. (R.A.D. H.F. 1805/9 to JACKAL)

/LYCIA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

LYCIA.	N.O.I.C. Blyth 2045/8 and my 0955/8. Estimate LYCIA could sail from Tyne p.m./10. As HEBE not completed until 16/2 request you provide suitable escort to Scapa as no ship is available in Rosyth Command. (C. in C. Rosyth 1207/9 to A.C.O.S).
UNBEATEN.	Intend to sail UNBEATEN from Portsmouth unescorted diving by day at 1700/10 via Needles Channel. Route to R/V with three destroyers 110° Start Point 3 miles at 0930/11. (S.S. 1405/9).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. 4 trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/9).
Submarines.	Positions at 0800/10 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1659/9).
QUEEN ELIZABETH.	Following revised programme has been approved. QUEEN ELIZABETH will work up at Scapa under orders of C. in C. H.F. (A.C.N.S.H. 1738/9).
LONDONDERRY. CYMBULA.	My 1759/8. LONDONDERRY is to replace corvette in escort of CYMBULA. (C. in C. W.A. 1847/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations.

Home Fleet. Operation.	Scapa departure 0904 RODNEY, BEDOUIN, ZULU, MAORI, INGLEFIELD, BRILLIANT, BOREAS. 1023 KING GEORGE V. for operational sweep to northward. (A.C.C.S. 1025/9).
	My 2359/8 Para C. For 10 miles read 15 miles. (F.O.S.1119/9 to MINERVE).
	A/C report sighting enemy cruiser believed HIPPER class escorted by three destroyers in 57° 57'N, 6° 42'E. course 145° speed 15 at 1240/9. (C. in C. Rosyth 1936/9 to C. in C. H.F. Adty, A.C.C.S,F.O.S. C. in C. Nore).
	E.T.A. Skaale Fiord Faeroes in KELLY with KASHMIR and KIPLING about 1800/10. (Capt. D.5. 2001/9 to R.A.D.H.F).
Operation P.X.	Postponed a further 24 hours. (C. in C. Nore 1135/9 to EREBUS).
Thames Estuary.	As requested by telephone by Captain M.S. Sheerness STARLIGHT RAYS will be as near Elbow Buoy as safety permits (patrol Re) tonight carrying white light on Fore Stay. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1536/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Battle Aircraft may be sent up at dawn ? to patrol between Westman Islands and position 200 miles South.
(F.O. Iceland 0054/9).

My 0054/9 Patrol will be flown at daylight and at intervals of 3 hours throughout the day through.following positions.
(F.O. Iceland 0149/9).

Your 0149/9. Patrols ordered therein do not appear to comply with C. in C. Coastal Command's request stated in War Office's message of January 9th to Iceland Force. Please explain discrepancies.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1909/9 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

Following patrols ordered to be flown A.M. today STAB STAND BERT Special Recco Kristiansand FAIR.
(C. in C, Rosyth 0228/9).

O. 546 Cipher 9/2. My O.545/8/2. My limited resources carrying out patrol required starting 0700 hours Icelandic time. No patrol available for Denmark Strait.
(G.O.C. Iceland 0253/9 to War Office).

My 0228/9. Patrol FAIR cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth 0822/9).

Patrol HORNLI is being flown today.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1032/9).

My 2310/8. Patrol will be discontinued at 1600 as second aircraft returning to base with engine trouble.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1532/9).

Patrol S.T.2. at 0900 and S.T. One at 1400 tomorrow.
(N.A. Station, Stornoway 1625/9).

/My.....

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

My 0149/9. This patrol will be flown daily during daylight hours until further notice.
(F.O. Iceland 1747/9).

C. in C. H.F.'s 1744/8. As 1 Sunderland only is available Patrol Fugle as requested in Part B. will be flown to-morrow and patrol by Battles as in F.O. Iceland's 0149/9. If more aircraft become available Patrol R2 as in Part A will also be flown.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1842/9).

My 0149/9. Patrol returned nothing to report.
(F.O. Iceland 2047/9).

My 2240/3/2. One Sortie will be flown from first light tomorrow.
(C. in C. Rosyth 2246/9).

801 Squadron to Hatston.

My 2121/8. 801 Squadron is to proceed to Hatston forthwith.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1140/9).
Admiralty's 2121/8 not to C.D.B. 801 Squadron at St. Merryn has 15 pilots and 14 serviceable and operationally complete aircraft available to fly to Hatston. In addition L.2895 is expected to be serviceable and complete s.m./10. Intend to retain L.2982 and L. 2979 at St. Merryn as A.R. for 801 Squadron.
(St. Merryn 1204/9 to R.A.N.A.S).
Admiralty's 1140/9. Stores and maintenance personnel are to stand by to move at short notice and are not to proceed till further orders.
(R.A.N.A.S. 1225/9 to St. Merryn).
Your 1140/9. 801 Squadron unable to proceed due to weather.
(St. Merryn 1309/9 to Adty).

/20.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

20 Hurricanes to D.A.M.

ZA589 9/2. Request you allot twenty Hurricane mark 1 Aircraft to D.A.M. Admiralty. Aircraft to be operationally equipped.
(Air Ministry 1400/9 to M.A.P).

R.C. of Kristiansand.

My 0228/9. Recco of Kristiansand unsuccessful. One aircrart lost, the other did not reach objective.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1642/9 to C. in C. H.F).

Escorts.

Owing to weather air escorts have been discontinued today.
(C. in C. Nore 1451/9 to HASTINGS, WALLACE, VALOROUS, VERDUN).

Blenheim Fighters providing close escort to W.N. 81 part 2 and cover for W.N. 81 part one and E.N. 69 combined at dusk. Details re Hurricanes later.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1618/9).

My 1618/9. Hurricane will combine close escort for W.N. 81 part one and E.N. 69 from dusk to dark to-day from dusk to dark fighter league green after dark fighter Methil minor green.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1714/9 to PIROUETTE, etc).

Air escort will be continued throughout tonight.
(C. in C. W.A. 1813/9 to BIRMINGHAM).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

BARON RENFREW.
(Bombed 28/1).

Your 1750/8. Proceed forthwith to assist TENACITY with BARON RENFREW.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 0040/9/2 to SCHELDE).
BARON RENFREW unfit for towing until list corrected; and lying safely. On boarding found ship. Apparently looted. SCHELDE confirming.
(TENACITY 1840/9 to F.O.I. C. Greenock).

CALAFATIS.
(bombed 4/2).

Searched the area no result. Returning.
(ERICA 0927/9 to C. in C. W.A).

A/C shot down.

One unknown Aircraft bearing 180° Distance 3 miles position 52° 43'N. 1° 25'E.
(PYTCHLEY 1120/9).
My 1120. Aircraft shot down.
(PYTCHLEY 1125/9).
Following received, from PYTCHLEY. My 1125. Aircraft Heinkel 111 K observed to crash near B.D.2. buoy. Search made. No survivors 1138/9 Ends.
(C. in C. Nore 1245/9).

NEPTUNE attacked.

Fighter protection is being sent to the aid of one Cruiser.
(Nore W/T 1129/9).
NEPTUNE attacked by one Dornier 215 dive bomber (?350) miles east Portrush east Barron Beacon. Near miss. Slight damage. Enemy was seen to be damaged. No casualties.
(NEPTUNE 1140/9 to C. in C. Nore).

Iceland.

German aircraft attacked troops S.E. of Reykjavik at 1100Z + 1 today. Description of machine.
(F.O.I.C. Iceland, 1230/9).
O.549 cipher 9/2. Description of attack. 2 Casualties. Attempts to intercept by available Battle aircraft failed. During this time two of our aircraft were absent on patrol asked for in your 50820 (M.O.8) of 8/2.
(G.O.C. Iceland 1611/9 to War Office).

/Restrictions.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (contd).

Restrictions on use of A/A Guns. Newcastle-on-Tyne.	A.274 9/2. Your A327 1/2 and Adty. 1512/31/1 re attack on Vickers Naval Yard Newcastle-on-Tyne on 27/1. Owing to possible confusion in R.D.F. filtering, aircraft was identified as returning friendly bomber until attack proved error. Prior to attack aircraft was never recognised as hostile owing to bad visibility. It is not correct therefore to state that "enemy aircraft was under aim" as it was not known to be/or suspected of being hostile and no warning had been given. (H.Q.F.C. 1515/9 to Air Ministry).
Convoy O.G.52.	There are indications that Convoy O.G. 52 may have been reported by aircraft working with U/Boat. (D.D.I.C. 1546/9 to SCARBOROUGH, WHITEHALL).
Scapa.	No enemy aircraft over Scapa today. (A.C.O.S. 1751/9).
Convoys. E.N. Odd. W.N. Odd.	Send fighters to assistance of MIGHT and MATERIAL. (Lyness W/T 1800/9).
WAZIRISTAN. (Bombed 2/2).	Destination Kirkwall. (D.T.D. 2008/9).
Avonmouth.	Air attack on shipping off Avonmouth may be expected tonight. (D.D.I.C. 2211/9 to N.O.I.C. Avonmouth).
PRINCESS MAUD.	(British 2883 Tons) Attacked by A/C 5 miles 248° from Corsewall. (PRINCESS MAUD 2302/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

INTREPID.
IMPULSIVE.
ICARUS.

Your 1952/8. Ready at 2 hours notice.
(D.20 0245/9 to Adty).
Departures D.20 in INTREPID ICARUS and IMPULSIVE in company at 1450 in accordance with Adty's 2221/8. E.T.A. Scapa 1130/10.
(F.O. Humber 1501/9).

1st M/F.

C. in C. Rosyth 1214/7. If continuous sweeping can be carried out on 9th and 10th the 1st M.F. will be ready to sail from Scapa on 12th.
(A.C.O.S. 1202/9).

Milford Haven.

Open to all ships subject to local restrictions.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1234/9).
It is desirable that ships should not arrive before noon.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1308/9).

At 0945/9 one Mine detonated by Trawler in 128° Great Castle Head Lower Light 7 cables.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1504/9).

Port closed owing to minelaying by enemy aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 2042/9).

Firth of Forth.

One red mine detonated by L.L. Sweepers 1109 today in 056° 10' 24"N. 002° 46' 48"W.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1535/9).

Harwich Area.

5 fast minesweepers searched channel detailed in my 1045/8 covering front off 12 cables. No mines found 1 sweep cut by conical float in 51° 53'N. 01° 45'E.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1743/9).

/Spurn.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.2.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

General.

Foreign Ships.	Not to be selected as Commodore's ships without the concurrence of Adty. (D.T.D. 1050/9 to A.I.G. 47).
Escort Groups.	Order of sailing, O.B. and O.G. to 7/3/41. (C. in C. W.A. 1135/9).
Night Anchorage, Rosyth.	From noon 10/2, alternative "night convoy arrival anchorage" will be available. Limits. (C. in C. Rosyth 2259/9).

Coastal Convoys.

E.N. 69.	Sailed. Escorts and numbers. (N.O.S.O. Methil 0157/9) List (0200/9 amended 0958/9 1202/9). Position and speed. (STELLA POLARIS, 1930/9).
F.S. 6.	Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0201/9) Absentees (0948/9) 29 ships (0950/9) 2 ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1851/9).
O.B.C. 283. O.B.O. 283.	Sailed escort, numbers (N.O.S.O. Clyde 0323/9) List and E.T.A. (1214/9). Sailed escort, 1 ship. (N.O.S.O. Oban 0836/9).
E.N. 67.	All 5 ships arrived. (N.O.S.O. Oban 0655/9) 3 ships arrived. (N.O.S.O. Clyde 1920/9).
F.S. 5.	Wash ships arrived. (N.O.S.O. Humber 0914/9) Arrived except DONA ISABEL. (N.O.S.O. Thames 1839/9).
F.N. 1.	ANGULARITY not arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0947/9)
F.S.8.	SHEARWATER as additional escort. (C. in C. Rosyth 1811/9).

/F.S.7.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.
(contd).

F.S. 7.	My 2337/8, read 12 ships (N.C.S.O. Methil 0957/9) Numbers joining from Blyth Tyne, etc (C. in C. Rosyth 1351/9) Code word. (C. in C. Rosyth 1419/9). Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/9) List (1658/9) Ships joining from Humber (N.C.S.O. Humber 1750/9).
F.N. 2.	Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 1046/9 F.O.I.C. Tyne 1137/9).
O.B.C. 285.	Date, escorts, number. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1235/9).
W.N. 81.	In 2 parts code words (C. in C. Rosyth 1236/9) E.T.A. (CURACOA 1315/9) Air escort (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1618/9). GLEANER to join. (C. in C. Rosyth 1629/9).
O.B. 284. O.B.C. 284. O.B.C. 284.	Sailed (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1242/9) Escort (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1510/9). Date and escort (N.C.S.O. Oban 1603/9). Sailed escort (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2235/9).
F.N. 3.	Numbers from Tyne, Blyth, Middlesbrough. (C. in C. Rosyth 1353/9). Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1540/9) Humber ships arrived (1554/9). Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1659/9).
E.N. 69.	Ships to join (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 1431/9). Air escort (N.O.I.C. Invergordon 1618/9).
F.N. and F.S.	Additional escorts. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1546/9 amended 1247/11 and 1612/11).
W.N.U. 82.	Sailed, escort, number (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1853/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.2.1941.
Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

Ocean Convoys.

O.O.	Slow ships for N. America to join O.G. Convoys. (D.T.D. 1048/9).
O.O. 52.	WESTON to report position. (C. in C. W.A. 1149/9) May have been reported by German A/C working with U/B. (D.D.I.C. 1546/9). GENTIAN to continue as extra escort. (C. in C. W.A. 2105/9 to SCARBOROUGH).
H.G. 53.	Position reported by German A/C working with U.B (D.D.I.C. 1422/9) Attack by A/C see North Atlantic. Attack by S/M see U.B. campaign.
H.X. 109.	Destinations of certain ships (D.T.D. 1736/9).
S.L. 63. B.M.	One corvette to escort. (C. in C. W.A. 1449/9).
H.X. 104.) B.H.X. 104.) S.C.20.)	List of arrivals.(N.C.S.O. Mersey 1523/9) S.C.20 List (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2000/9) B.H.X. 104 arrivals (N.C.S.O. Barry 2340/9).
H.X. 108.	Sailing telegram. (S.C.N.O. Halifax 1605/9).
S.C. 21.	Sailing telegram as amended by Admty. (D.T.D. 1740/9).
H.X. 106.	Meet (C. in C. W.A. 1857/9 to MALCOLM, BURNHAM, etc).
H.G. 52.	GENTIAN to R.V. (WESTON 2350/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 9.2.1941. Sunday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping & Convoys. (contd).

MILITARY CONVOYS.

W.S.6.

(a) 0158/9 (b) Clyde portion escort.
(c) 18 (7 with kites).
(N.C.S.O. Clyde 0159/9).
Sailed Clyde section as by Adty 1357/31/1.
Escort BIRMINGHAM, CATHAY, Capt D.7 in NAPIER, OTTAWA, LEGION, PIORUN, SKEENA, GARLAND, NIZAM.
(N.O.I.C. Greenock 0205/9).
Departures up to 1600/9. 17 Ships.
(Adty. Berthing Officer, Greenock 1701/9).
Asking why S.S. YOMA did not sail.
(A.C.N.S.H. 1737/9).
My 2212/7. NORTHUMBERLAND and BURMA have not sailed and will return to harbour A.M./10.
(N.O.I.C. Liverpool 2024/9).
A.T. 1624/5. Delete all reference to EDINBURGH (C.S. 18). 2. Convoy less LLANSTEPHAN CASTLE, YOMA BURMA NORTHUMBERLAND and tanker CYMBULA sailed 8/2.
(A.C.N.S. F. 2238/9).
Your 2024/9. Request you report by signal reason for failure of NORTHUMBERLAND and BURMAH to join convoy.
(A.C.N.S.H. 2257/9 to N.O.I.C. Liverpool).
Troopships NORTHUMBERLAND and BURMA who failed to sail with W.S.6. should be sailed to Clyde.
C. in C. W.A. is requested to arrange necessary escort.
(A.C.N.S. H. 2319/9).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9.2.1941.
Sunday.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

THALA. (Grounded 8/2.).	Arrived Tobermory PIMPERNEL with 35 survivors. (WESTERN ISLES 0030/9).
PRINS FREDERIK. HENDRIK.	Detach one ship to assist in 054° 20' N. 017° 30'W. at 2014. (C. in C. W.A. 0117/9 to SCARBOROUGH). My 0130/9. My speed reduced by weather to 11 knots. Request air assistance in search from 1500/9. My A/S out of action. (WINCHELSEA 0801/9 to CEDAR). Your 0801/9. Air assistance not available today. (C. in C. W.A. 1251/9). Your 2103/8. Am searching the area to the South and East during the night. Nothing yet sighted. (WINCHELSEA, 2001/9 to C. in C. W.A).
LETITIA.	(A.M.C) My 0926/8. Gale abated. Ship unexpectedly refloated and berthed alongside. Full extent of damage not yet ascertained but very serious. (R.A. 3rd B.S. 0131/9).
ERICA.	Floated this morninge tide. Proceeding Kings Lynn to discharge. (F.O. Humber 1012/9).
POLITICIAN. (Grounded 5/2)	P.C. 74 has been detailed to escort salvage vessel RANGER to POLITICIAN aground in Eriskay sound. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1030/9).
M.L. 140. M.L. 141. M.L. 142. M.L. 144.	M.L. 140 defects 7/10 days. M.L. 141 defects 4/7 days. M.L. 142 damaged completion date uncertain. M.L. 144 defects 5/7 days. (R.A.C.F. 1200/9).
NESSUS.	(Salvage vessel) Out of commission owing to broken dynamo shafts. (Salvage Officer, Hull 1355/9).

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

PORT RICHE PANSE.

My 1812/8, not to Adty. Now reported that French PORT RICHEPANSE left St. Thomas 7/2, bound for Casablanca via Martinique.(F.O.C.N.A., 1248/9, to N.A, Stn.)

Legaussing of French Prizes at Gibraltar.

Your 1304/6. Yes.(A.C.N.S.(T),1411/9, to A.S. Gib.)

Oiler, S/M's.

My 1212/20/1. (No trace in W.R.) U.S. Ship ALGIC probably sighted French Naval Oiler and S/M, MORGE, PEGASUS, VENGEUR and L'ESPOIR bound Tamatave from Dakar. (S.O.I. Freetown, 1501/9, to N.S.H.Q.Ottawa.)

North Atlantic.

COLD HARBOR. (Red Cross for Spain.)

My 1702/5. U.S.Ship COLD HARBOR(details of marking) due Cadiz 14/2. (Capt.S.S. 1140/9, to TUNA.)

AFRICAN REEFER.

Consul, Funchal, unable to persuade Master of Danish ship AFRICAN REEFER to sail for a British Port. A southerly gale may force her to sea and give an opportunity of seizing her. Ships on Western Patrol should be instructed accordingly.(D.O.D.(F) 1323/9, to F.O.C.N.P., F.O.C.N.A.) Order to Western Patrol.(F.O.C.N.P., 1450/9.)

H.G.53.

Position of convoy was reported by German Aircraft co-operating with U/Boat at 1316A/9, B.B.C.(D.D.I.C. 1422/9.)

/Convoy.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic Contd.

Convoy H.G.53. Bombed.

Enemy bombing convoy CAMEL in 35° 42' N. 14° 38' W. (DEPTFORD 1500/9.)

TEJO) JURO) sunk. DAGMAR ONE, abandoned. VARNA damaged. BRITANNIC sunk.

My 1500. 6 F.W's have attacked convoy. TEJO and JURA sunk, DAGMAR ONE abandoned, VARNA damaged. (DEPTFORD 1520/9.)

My 1520/9. Add BRITANNIC sunk. DAGMAR engine out of action but still afloat salvage possible. Suggest salvage tug to be sent now to 036° 42' N. 014° 38' W. (DEPTFORD, 1200Z/10.)

Used Sunderland at Gibraltar en route to Bathurst to escort, convoy H.G.53, which was attacked by s/m, and a/c, in 35.53.N. 15.13 W a.m. 9/2. Weather curtailed flying at Gibraltar. (200 Group, 1700/9.)

KENYA SOBIESKI DUNEDIN.

Your 1314/8. Date of sailing. Concur RESOLUTION to sail separately. (D.O.D. (F) to F.O.C.N.A.,1739/9.) See Operations Volume.

South Atlantic.

Air Bases.

R.A.F. long term policy for W. Africa. (W.O., 0130/9 to C.O.C., W. Africa.)

CANTON.

Your 2209/8. Essential should arrive Freetown by (date). (C. in C. S.A., to Admty etc., 0945N/9) See Operations Volume.

/Disposition.....

MOST SECRET.

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Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Dispositions.

Weekly state at 1200/8. (C. in C. S.A., 1325N/8.)

EMPIRE TROOPER.)
CAPO OLMO.)
TOUAREG)
CUBA.)
PORT-BINGER.)

Employment of, for French Brigade, and transport of other troops. (C. in C. S.A., 1403/9.) See Operations Volume.

EURYLOCHUS
Survivors.

Spanish MONTEVIDE reported bound for Buenos Aires probably due 16/2, has survivors from EURYLOCHUS. Request they may be interrogated about features of enemy ships. (C. in C. S.A.,1437N/9, to N.A. Buenos Aires.)

BULLFINCH.
KINRIEMOOR,
CROCKS,
MARGUERITE.

Admty. 1632/8. Intend sailing for Freetown on 13/2, (route.) (N.O.I.C. Greenock, 1819/9.)

BULOLO.

To escort S.L.65, then to Greenock. (C. in C. S.A., to BULOLO, 1811/9.)

DRAGON
CAPO-OLMO.
TOUAREG.

My 2017/8. Intend DRAGON shall visit Duala arriving a.m./11, subsequently fuel at Lagos and then meet CAPO-OLMO, and TOUAREG at sea and escort to Freetown. Request early information if any objection to DRAGON'S visit. (C. in C. S.A., 1819/9, to N.C.S.O. Duala.)

/Merchant.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

9. 2. 41.
Sunday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

Merchant Shipping.

Present system of "proceed signals" as laid down in South Atlantic Station memorandum 34 will be discontinued and instead "shipping information signals" will be sent out daily on and after 12/2, giving information of British, Allied and Neutral shipping. Details.
(C. in C. S.A., 1921W/9, to S.A.Sqdn., amended 1651W/12.)

Enemy Unit.

D/F Bearings at 1817Z/9, suggest surface unit within 150 miles equator 020° W, reliability 30% and that this may be the unit indicated near 010° N., 023° W, at 0457Z/8, in my 1051/8.
(C. in C. S.A.,2237W/9, to S.A. Stn.)

Mediterranean.

Enemy Convoy.

Convoy of three enemy merchant ships escorted by two T.B.'s p.s. and c. 035° 15' 011° 30' 99, 11 knots at 1940.
(Capt. S.I. 0022/9, to S/M's on Patrol.)

Operation Result.

Bombardment completed. (F.O.Force H, 0745/9.)

My 0745/9. "RESULT" reported excellent. No Battleship present. (F.O.Force H, 0752/9.)

My 0745/9. From all accounts Genoa is in a bloody fine mess.(F.O.Force H, 0817/9.)

/My 0745/9.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

My 0745/9. 273 rounds of 15 inch fired. Observed results: Genoa large fires in both Ansaldo electric works and boiler works, main power Station, dry docks and round inner harbour. Hits on oil tanks, marshalling yard and merchant ships. 782 rounds six inch H.E.400 rounds 4.5 in H.E. fired. F.A.A. Spezzia. Mines laid in harbour exits, Leghorn. Five tons H.E., 150 incendiary, on Azionda refinery. Incendiaries in industrial area. Pisa aerodrome and railway junction hit. One Swordfish missing. Two Cant shot down.(S.O. Force H., 1227/9.)

TRUANT
TETRARCH. — TRUANT will be recalled from patrol to arrive at Malta 15/2. TETRARCH will leave patrol 15/2, to arrive at Alexandria 20/2. (Capt. S.1, 0929/9.)

JUNO
GRIFFIN. — Your 1450Z/8. Cannot be spared. (C. in C. Med. to C. in C. E.l., 0949/9) See Mediterranean Volume.

T.L.C. — Your 1218/4/1. Asking destination for stores and spares. (D.O.D. (F) 1202/8, to S.B.N.O.,Suez.)

Valona. — R.A.F. Reconnaissance Valona 8/2, (Results.)(N.A. Athens, 1206/9, to S.O.I, Alexandria.)

Mines,
Suez
Canal. — Your 2333/7. Steps being taken. (D.M.S., to C. in C. Med., 1236/9). See Mediterranean. Volume. (original in Lion copy only.)

/Mines .....

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Mine Explosion.	Explosion of 2 mines, 1 while being prepared for laying at R.A.F. Station Halfar, Casualties, Mines were near end of their safe life.(V.A. Malta, 1418/9, to C. in C. Med.)
Minesweepers.	My 2331/7 and my 2320/9. Apart from strengthening our own resources desirable that a reserve should be built up as rapidly as possible for dealing with magnetic mine attacks on Greek and Turkish Ports and on Straits. (C. in C. Med., 1531/9, to Admty.)
Malta Air Raid.	Combined Services report Malta up to 1700 9/2 all times G.M.T. From 1710 to 0215 approximately 45 aircraft approached Island from North singly or at times in pairs. Some identified as JU 88s others probably H.E. 111s. Bombs dropped. Luqa damage to runway and two Glenn Martins unserviceable for considerable period. Hal Far hangar hit.Casualties. Fighters destroyed 2 JU 88s confirmed and damaged one other. While loading Swordfish morning 9/2 at Hal Far one Cucumber exploded killed 7 naval 1 civilian personnel.(H.Q. R.A.F., Malta, 1715/9.)
ZINN GARELLA TIBERIO. MARIO GIOVANNA. MADRE.DEL RAZIE captured.	Following Italian auxiliary schooners employed on look out and/or supply service have been (captured) during course of naval and military operation in Libya. ZINNGARELLA, TIBERIO, MARIA GIOVANNA, MADRE DEL /RAZIE. Military necessity required immediate employment of these craft for prosecution of the war. Owing to rapid advance in Libya, not yet possible to carry out procedure laid down in Naval Prize Manual, appendix 5. (C. in C. Med., 1731/9, to Admty.)

/~~Canal~~.....

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Naval Situation in Libya.

My 2149/2. Naval forces were not directly concerned in capture of Benghazi. Naval support has consisted of patrolling coast, moving up supplies and opening up of coast ports after recent mining. Tobruk is now open, Derna can be used by very small ships, Sollum is likely to be opened as soon as sweepers available. Considerable trouble still being experienced at Tobruk, RODI ADINDA and a prize schooner having been mined; RODI slightly damaged details of ADINDA not known.

2. APRIS arriving Benghazi 10th. Port is being opened as soon as practicable and it is hoped to pass in a convoy in a few days time. (C. in C. Med. 1635/9.)

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. Contd.

Raider, TANNENFELS. — Your 2513/6, para 3, (ships attacked by one armed merchant Raider.) Now consider this D/F position was of German Ship TANNENFELS escaped from Kismayu. My 0748/7 refers. (C. in C.E.I., 08122/9, to Admty.)Use as raider, (C. in C. E.I., 08122/9.)

DESPATCH. — Departure DESPATCH for patrol in accordance with my 1121/6. (C. in C. A.W.I, 1006/9.)

KANIMBLA. — Durban departure KANIMBLA in accordance with C. in C. E.I. 11182/8. (N.O.I.C. Durban, 1357/9.)

A.S.14. — Cancel my 1503/7 (A.N.14 arrived.) Convoy A.S.14 arrived 7/2, February. (N.O.I.C. Port Said, 1047/9.)

B.S.16. — Sailed. List. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 1719/9.)

Force Z. W. S. 6. — Re-arrangement of escorts necessary. (D.O.D. (F) 2339/9, to C. in C.E.I.) See Operations Volume.

America and West Indies.

GEORGIC. — Naval Freightship GEORGIC sailed U.K. 31/1, with following for Bermuda:- Onward conveyance to Trinidad arranged. Request you arrange onward conveyance as necessary. (D. of S.T. 0031/9, to N.O.I.C. Trinidad.)

/Ships.....

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West
~~East~~ Indies Contd.

Ships passing to South Atlantic.	In arranging cover for important ships passing from A. & W. I.Stetion to S.A. Station it would assist me to have information of your affairs in area North of Equator and West of 030°, W. Suggest repeating to me operation signals made to ships in this area.(C. in C.A.W.I. 1132/9, to C. in C. S. A.)
TILAPA (H.X.98.)	Asking why ship was not sailed independently. (D.T.D. 1734/9, to N.C.S.O, Bermuda) (Reply: 1348/10.)
CHISTALES CORRALES TACHEE. DIONE II.	My 1838/14. Request reason for action taken re: Inclusion in convoy.(D.T.D.1741/9, to C.O.A.C. Halifax.) (Reply: 1523/10.)

Australia.

Policy.	Re Telegram 50 of 28/1, from S. of S, for Dominions. Remarks of Chiefs of Staff submitted to Commonwealth Govt, re plans for defence of S.W. Pacific Area, Indian Ocean, etc. (C.N.S., A.C.N.B., to Admty, for 1 S.L., 01302/9) See Operations Volume. Original in Lion copy only.

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

TANNENFELS.	My 0740/7, TANNENFELS appearance as follows: (details) (C. in C. H.I., 05262/9, to H.I. Stn.) Use as raider, (C. in C. H.I., 05122/9) See East Indies.
PLUS.	Your 1306/7. Please indicate port of arrival. (F.C.C.H.A. 1043/9, to Admty.)
HELLOMA.	Arrived 7/2. (Valencia, T.H.I. 1320/9.)
TRAPANI.	(1350 tons, was expected to complete loading at Genoa on 8/2. (D.S.524.)
NORDERNEY.	At Pasa, reported about to load, rubber, etc. (D.S.524.)

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 41.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

RINGHORN.
(torpedoed 4/2.)

Arrived CAMELIA with five survivors of RINGHORN. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0107/9.)

Convoy H.G.53. attacked ESTRELLANO, COURLAND, torpedoed.

British 1993, tons A.Z. (A) 035° 53' N, 012 13' W. amended see 0830/9.) (B) 0440/9. (C) ESTRELLANO, 51. (D)282° (E) 8 hours. (F) DEPTFORD ahead, VELOX astern. (DEPTFORD, 0830/9, to Admty.)

DEPTFORD reports convoy H.G.53, attacked by U boat in 035° 53' N. 013° 13' W. ESTRELLANO sunk. (F.O.C.N.A. 0713/9, 0812/9.)

British 1325 tons. My 0830/9. (A) should read 035° 53' N, 013° 13' W, (C) add COURLAND No. 11. 30 survivors from COURLAND 21 survivors from ESTRELLANO picked up (E) attack was from port side. (DEPTFORD, 0830/9.)

PIZARRO.

Your 1715/8. Request whether D.E.M.S. Gun-layer is among survivors landed Lisbon. (D.T.D. 1838/9, to Consul, Lisbon.)

W.B.WALKER,
(torpedoed 29/1.)

Stern half of W.B. WALKER reported in 056° 30' N. 011° 00' W. at 1620/9. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 2350/9, to SHAKAN.)

MOST SECRET.

9. 8. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

S/M's Reported. 2035/8.	From D/F Bearings on Italian s/m, was in approx. 038° 20' N, 016° 50' E. at 1935 G.M.T.8/2. (Capt. O.S. Alexandria, 0200/9, to C. in C. Med. etc.)
0430.	U. Boat was in 035° 53' N, 012° 13' W, at 0430/9. (F.O.C.N.A. 0753/9, to N.A. Stn.)
0430.	Message A.F. Position 35° 53' N, 12° 13' W, at 0330/9, G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1017/9, to C.B.M.S. Area I.)
1127.	D/1 indicates U-boat possibly damaged within 25 miles of 048° N, 007° W, homeward bound. (F.O. (S). 1127/9.)
1315.	Bearings of enemy unit indicate that U/B may still be following H.G.83. (D.D.I.C. 1315/9, to F.O.C.N.A., DEPTFORD.)
1104.	U-Boat around area 53.40. N., 17.00W. 1104/9 - D/F. unreliable. (18 Group, 2200/9, to Air Ministry.)
1932.	C.A.F.O. 3105/39. Non sub-contact established in 035° 54' N, 014° 36' 30". E. (C. in C. Med., 1932/9.)

/Estimated.....

MOST SECRET.

9. 2. 1941.
Sunday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated
U/B dispositions.

German.
1 possibly Shetlands - Faroes.
1 58° N - 60° N: 16° W - 19° W.
1 possibly 58° N - 60° N:
21° W - 24° W. 1 60 miles of 55°
N: 19° W. 1 40 miles of 53° 40' N:
17° W. 1 60 miles of 51° N: 31° W.
1 30 miles of 48° N: 7° W. en route to
Lorient. 1 35° 53' N: 12° 13' W.
0430/9.

Italian.
1 60 miles of 56° N: 21° W. 1 N.W.
Approaches. (D.D.I.C. 1357/9.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Home Commands

Ice conditions in Europe in so far as they affect possible invasion, are summarised today in C.I.C. Report.

Search for Enemy Cruiser

An aircraft sighted cruiser at 0730 in position 62° 58' N., 15° 0' W., steering rapidly W.S.W. C. in C., Rosyth passed on the report at 1248.

At 1641 C. in C., H.F. ordered EDINBURGH, RODNEY and KING GEORGE to return to Scapa. NELSON abandoned the operation at 1739, NIGERIA and ARETHUSA are to remain on patrol in the Denmark Straits until 2100/12.

Operation P.V. 1.

This operation was carried out between 2030 and 2359.

British Air Activity

Bomber Command operations last night included attacks on the naval centre at Wilhelshaven. Bad weather caused the operations to be severely curtailed.

Dunkirk, ~~was~~ Boulogne and Calais were each attacked today by 6 Blenheims with fighter escort.

Enemy Air Activity

Convoy F.N. 4 was bombed this evening off Winterton and SS BENMACDHUI was damaged.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

Mining

Situation in Humber

Further minelaying occurred in the Humber tonight. It is suspected that 60 mines were dropped. 20 were seen to fall, 7 of which exploded spontaneously.

F.O. Humber reports that the situation regarding A.A. fire against minelaying aircraft at the Humber mouth has become intolerable. Two hundred mines have been laid with practically no opposition owing to the refusal of the R.A.F. to allow fire to be opened at minelayers.

F.O.Humber asks that some vessels with good A.A. armament may be sent to provide some defence. C. in C., Nore agrees with F.O.Humber and remarks that "this is not the best way to win the war."

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night was suspected in the areas of Liverpool, Isle of Man, Clyde and Arran.
Bay

Liverpool was reopened this morning. Some mines were detonated.

Milford Haven was opened about noon; one mine was detonated.

Holyhead was opened at 1255 and Avonmouth, Newport, Cardiff and Barry at 1600.

Moored mines were swept up 6½ miles S.W. of St. Catherines. This position is about 3 miles N.E. of the position where ACHERON sank after an explosion on 17/12/40.

MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.2.1941.
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MOST SECRET

War Diary

10.2.1941.
Monday

SITUATION REPORT

South Atlantic

Force Z arrived at Freetown this forenoon, escorted by C.S. 10 in KENYA with DORSETSHIRE and 2 destroyers. One ship has sustained some damage from the weather.

Mediterranean

Enemy aircraft are carrying out continual reconnaissances during daylight hours all round Malta, particularly the South Approaches.

Wellingtons last night again attacked Calato aerodrome (Rhodes) with good effect.

The threat of seaborne attack on the southern entrance to the Suez Canal is considered to be slight, and C. in C., Med. proposes to withdraw the 6 inch guns at PortTewfik and use them for coast defence at Cyrenaica.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

1st. M/S F.
6th M/S. F.
9th M/S. F.
SALAMANDER,
GOSSAMER.

A.L. M/M/S 023/41 of 25/1. C.in C. Nore's 1130/31/1 and C.in C. H.F's 1424/2/2. Intend 1st M.S.F. be sailed to Harwich direct on the completion of operation proposed in C.in C., Rosyth's 1214/7.

2. SALAMANDER and GOSSAMAR are to transfer to 6th M.S.F. forthwith.

3. Reconstituted 6th M.S.F. should be sailed to Scapa or as desired by C.in C. H.F. concurrently with movement of 1st M.S.F. South. C.in C. Rosyth is requested to inform C.in C. Nore, of intended sailing date.

4. SALAMANDER fitting 'LL' will join 6th M.S.F. on completion about 3rd March.

5. 9th M.S.F. will remain until arrival of 6th M.S.F. and will carry out operation proposed by R.A.M.L. on 50/M.L. 01040 addressed Admiralty, during passage south. (A.C.N.S.H. 2003/10).

4 Corvettes for Gibraltar.

Four corvettes are required to Gibraltar to increase the escort available for Home - Gibraltar convoys.

2. These ships will be based on Gibraltar.

3. They should not be fitted for minesweeping but should mount the best A/A armament available.

4. The first two should sail with O.G.53 and the second pair with O.G.54. (A.C.N.S.(T) 2248/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. — At 1130/10. (D.C. 1153/10). At 2330/10. (D.C.2343/10).

Movements.

WHITSHED. — Sail at 0730 today. Route to arrive Humber by 1800 to comply with C.in C. Nore's 2314/9. (D.16 0114/10 to WHITSHED).

OTUS SNAPPER. — Estimate OTUS in 048° 15'N., 007° 08'W. at 0800/10 proceeding for Portsmouth. SNAPPER leaves patrol after dark today within 30 miles of Ushant to Wolf Rock. (S.2. 1039/10).

Northern Patrol. — Trawler Line tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/10).

Submarines. — Positions, at 0800/11 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1838/10).

Operations.

PX. — Carry out operation PX tonight Zero Time 0100/11. (C.in C. Nore 1110/10 to EREBUS).

P.V.1. — Operation will be carried out tonight, between 2030/10 and 2359/10. (C.in C. Nore 1155/10).

Home Fleet. Operation. — Following intercept received from 98 Squadron. Cruiser sighted 0730 62° 58'N., 15° W. steering rapid W.S.W. T.O.O. 1005. (C.in C. Rosyth 1248/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Intend to proceed on completion of fuelling 1930 today. Request R/V.
(D.5. 1516/10 to R.A.D. H.F.)

C.S.18 in EDINBURGH with RODNEY and KING GEORGE V are to return to Scapa.
(C.in C. H.F. 1641/10 to C.S.18).

NELSON is returning to Scapa. P.C. and S. at 1730/10 061° 32'N., 014° 26'W. 126° 17½ knots.

(ii) Leave area with your force at 2000/11.

(iii) A.C.O.S. pass my 1641 to F.O.Iceland.
(C.in C. H.F. 1739/10 to C.S.2.)

Your 1516/10 unless otherwise ordered proceed to R/V with RODNEY in 065 N., 008 30'W., at 0900/11 vide C.in C. H.F. 1709/8 para. 6 to C.S.2.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1741/10 to D.5.)

C.in C. H.F. 1641/10. Remain at Faroes. Await further orders.
(R.A.D. H.F. 1925/10 to D.5.)

Operation RUBBLE.

My 1555/1 para. (a). (? unobtainable) there are indications that present weather, which seems likely to continue for a while on West Cost, may ease and possibly break up ice field off Gothenburg Skeduvies.
(N.A.Stockholm, 1809/10 to D.N.I.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Havre, Antwerp, Boulogne, Calais, Flushing.) On 9/2 four Blenheims attacked docks and shipping. Direct hit claimed on Petroleum store at Flushing, and Bombs seem to fall on quay at Antwerp. Results at other ports not observed. (H.Q.B.C. 0002/10 to Air Ministry).

Patrols. Following patrols ordered to be flown A.M. today: Stab, Special recco Kristiansand Fair.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0346/10).

Your 1909/9. Following are positions quoted in my 0149/9.

Patrol of Denmark Straits impossible owing to lack of aircraft.
(F.O. Iceland, 0835/10 to Admty).

To my 0346/10 add reconnaissance Trondheim.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1107/10).

Patrols S.T. One 0900 and S.T.2. at 1400 for 11/2.
(N.A.Station, Stornoway 1804/10).

A cross over patrol will be flown from 0845 tomorrow by one Whitley through 63° 13'N., 08° 15'W., 64° 15'N., 10° 02'W., 64° 00'N., 10° 30'W., 63° 28'N., 07 °45'W. One Sunderland will fly two circuits of a cross over patrol over top half of Fugle A/C to commence patrol in position 64° 42'N., 12° 32'W. at 0910/11 returning to Sullom Voe through 63o 20'N., 08° 00'W. One Sunderland to be on patrol at 1500/11 in position 63° 13'N., 08° 15'W. to fly complete Fugle leaving patrol at 1900/11 for Invergorden. One Sunderland standing by for possible shadowing.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1931/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

My 0149/9. G.O.C. informs me one patrol will be flown from first light tomorrow. Second patrol is to stand by at 30 minutes notice but will not fly without further orders.
(F.O.Iceland 2031/10).

801 Squadron for Hatston.

Your 1140/9. 801 Squadron 15 aircraft left at (?) ?0930.
(St. Merryn 1001/10).

Admty. 1140/9. 9 Skuas of No. 801 Squadron (F.A.A.) arrived p.m. today.
(R.A.N.A.S. Hatston 2015/10).

Bombing Restriction.

Request T.B.R. in area 24 from 0400 to 1200/12.
(S.2. 1014/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

Escort for BIRMINGHAM.

Air escort will be continued tonight except between midnight and 0200 approx.
(C.in C. W.A. 1845/10 to BIRMINGHAM).

Enemy Air Activity.

WAZIRISTAN (Bombed 2/2).

Tug MARAUDER and WAZIRISTAN arrived.
(N.O.I.C. Kirkwall 0902/10).
State of WAZIRISTAN anchored Isbister Bay Ship is no danger.
(C.S.V.O. Scapa, 2050/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Aircraft firing recognition signals.

Your 1225/17. My 1111/15. Guns crew reported three green signal lights. Proceeded to investigate. Nothing further seen. Suspicious. Consider correct recognition signals or imitation 0700-1300 15/1 three star grenade.
(MANISTEE 1155/10 to Admty).

Air Reconnaissance.

Enemy air reconnaissance at 1255 today reported no Naval Forces between North Rhone, 58° 45'N., 07° 00'W., and the East of Pentland Firth.
(D.D.I.C. 1347/10 to C.in C. H.F.)

NEPTUNE.

Following report from NEPTUNE on aircraft attack yesterday. One Near miss estimated 500 lb. bomb with delay action fuse burst about 20 to 30 feet from port side abreast main mast and shook ship heavily. Possibly slight increase to damage already sustained in O.F. tanks and after W/T compartments in Eastern Mediterranean.
(C.in C. Nore, 1655/10).

BARON RENFREW. (Bombed 28/1.

TENACITY on boarding BARON RENFREW in Loch Lathaich reports that looting had taken place. A written report is to be forwarded stating whether any light can be thrown on this matter and nature of assistance rendered by DAKOTAIN.
(C.in C. W.A. 2001/10 to ABELIA).

Convoy F.N.4. BENMACDHUI (British 6869 tons) damaged.

Convoy Agent being bombed by aircraft. my position 52° 37'N., 1° 55'E.
(PYTCHLEY 2101/10).
My 2101 no damage.
(PYTCHLEY 2114/10).
Convoy being bombed.
(PYTCHLEY 2132/10).
My 2132. Aircraft recognition colours believed compromised.
(PYTCHLEY 2140/10).

/my

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

My 2132. BENMACDHUI damaged forward making water in number one hold no casualties. She is endeavouring to make Middlesborough. (PETCHLEY 2210/10 and 2235/10).
Your 2210. Report if tug is required. (C.in C. Nore 2237/10 to PYTCHLEY).
No tug required. Engines in working order. (PYTCHLEY 2325/10).

Convoy positions reported.

Enemy aircraft have reported position of convoys. Keep look out for aircraft minelaying also E/Boats.
(C.in C. Nore 2117/10 to WORCESTER, etc.)

Mining.

SCOTTISH CO-OPERATOR. (Mined 7/2.)

My 2254/7. Docked at Workington. Internal damage sustained. Hull not leaking.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1020/10).

Liverpool.

Port re-opened.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1030/10).

Mine report to 1800/9. Detonated 53° 38'N., 3° 21'W.

2. detonated 53° 42'N., 3° 24'W.
All by S.A. Gear.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1044/10).

Operation B.S.51.

Intend TEVIOTBANK and WHITSHED to sail from Spurn Point at 1600/11. Laying will begin at 1100/12.
(S.O. M/L Immingham 1135/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Operation Z.M.E.16.	Particulars. To be carried out on the night of 11/2 or as soon after as practicable. (D.D.O.D.(H) 1227/10 to C.in C. W.A., PLOVER).
Milford Haven.	Port is open to all ships subject to local restrictions. It is desirable that ships should not arrive before noon. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 1231/10).
	At 1225/10 One mine detonated by sweeper in 130° Great Castle Head Low Light 4 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1525/10).
Holyhead.	Port open subject to local restrictions. (H.O.I.C. Holyhead 1255/10).
Bristol Channel.	Ships may leave and enter Avonmouth Newport Cardiff Barry from 1600 today. They should not anchor in Barry Roads or compass adjusting area. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff, 1404/10).
Harwich Area.	Fleet Sweepers on 117 Q.Z.S. searched from South Falls to 53 buoy covering a front of 15 cables. One German X type Mine cut and sunk in 51° 35' 30" N., 01°47' 12"E. Mine appeared to be an old one. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1538/10).
	Intend sailing GOSSAMER at 0730 tomorrow Tuesday to R/V with HARRIER at 52 buoy for L.L. Sweep 202 Q.Z.S. Details. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1552/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 10.2.1941. Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Future Minelaying Operations.	R.A.M.L's 1929/8/2/41. Concur in positions proposed. (A.C.N.S. (H) 1737/10 to R.A.M.L.)
Isle of Wight.	Two moored mines German type X swept up and sunk 6½ miles 258 degs. from St. Catherines. Mines 400 yds. apart. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1832/10).
BLACK WATCH.	(Norwegian 5035 tons) Reported sunk by mine in Vest Fjord sometime between 3/12/40 and 1/2/41. B.2. (D.D.I.C. 2307/10).
Humber.	Further minelaying tonight. Suspected 60 mines of which 20 mines observed to drop and seven exploded spontaneously. Height of aircraft up to 8,000 feet. (F.O. Humber 2316/10).
Protection Against Minelaying in Humber.	The situation regarding A/A fire against minelaying aircraft at the Humber Mouth has become intolerable. It is established that 140 hostile aircraft have operated over the mouth of the Humber during the last eight days. Two hundred mines have been laid with practically no opposition although patrol craft armed with lewis guns have done their best and have prevented the aircraft coming low in their immediate vicinity. I am informed that the army are forbidden to open fire until an aircraft has committed an hostile act and then only if permission has been obtained from Fighter Command. It appears that minelaying is not considered an hostile act. Request that some vessels with good A/A armament may be sent to Humber to provide some defence. Local military A/A Command deplores restrictions and desires to co-operate. (F.O.Humber, 2353/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Trawler sighted by CURACOA.	Your 1300/7. Trawler A.221. SUNLIGHT is requisitioned for naval service, and could not have been in position stated. Request confirmation that number was A. 221. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 1552/10).
BISMARCH.	Russian N.A. presumably Berlin, stated completed trials and joined fleet about 10/11/40. (N.A.Washington 1515/10.)(See Mediterranean)
TIRPITZ.	Undergoing trials and expected to join fleet about 1/2. (N.A. Washington 1515/10). See Mediterranean.
Stadlandet.	SEALION reports a number of patrol boats round Stadtlandet and trawlers patrolling in Vanelv Gabet. No aircraft seen. (F.O.S. 2334/10 to UROS).
Off Stavanger.	The following area is reported prohibited for all Norwegian ships. Graded B.2. An area identical with WZ 460 is prohibited to Norwegian vessels, (fishing). Graded C.3. These prohibitions, are believed to be operative now but the dates of issue of order are not known. Swedish press now reports German Authorities forbid use of strong working lights by fishing vessels. (D.D.I.C. 2347/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Miscellaneous.

Dummy Messages.

Dummy messages bearing an indication of priority will be made at different hours daily on port wave to simulate passing sailing orders and information to ships at short notice.

(v) Text of all messages will commence and end with phrase dummy message.
(C.in C. W.A. 2225/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys.

O.B.284.)
O.B.O.284.)
O.B.C.284.)
Sailed unescorted. 1 ship.
(F.O. Belfast 0525/10).
Sailed escort CALDWELL. 9 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1910/10).
List, destinations. E.T.A.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0945/10).

E.N.70.
FOWEY additional A/A escort.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0900/10).

F.N.4.
Sailed, 39 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 0929/10).
List. (1341/10).
Humber ships joining.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1741/10).

F.S.7.
Absentees.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0937/10).
35 ships.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0939/10).

F.N.3.
Absentees.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0938/10).

F.S.6.
Humber ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 0959/10).
Position, 24 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1157/10).
F.S.6. arrived. (exception).
(N.C.S.O. Thames 2358/10).

O.B.C.283.
My 1214/9. PEPEL did not sail.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1157/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

W.N.81. — Clyde portion arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1202/10).
Loch Ewe and Oban portions arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1330/10).

O.B.U.283. — Sailed unescorted 23 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1206/10).

O.B.287 288,) 289 291 292.) — Re sailing dates.
(C.in C. W.A. 1335/10).

2 Tankers. — Sailing and route, escort LONDONDERRY.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1421/10, 1507/10).

F.S.8. — Sailed 1400/10, 7 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1531/10).
List and destinations.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1634/10).
2 Ships from Humber.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1735/10).

O.B.285 — ST. APOLLO to R/V.
(F.O.I.C. Belfast 1606/10).
Clyde departures.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2345/10).

F.N.3. — Arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Methil, 1618/10).
Tyne Ships arrived.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1638/10).

F.S.7. — Humber ships arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Humber, 1641/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

O.B.287.
O.B.294. — Order of escort groups.
(C.in C. W.A. 1739/10).

C.E.25. — Programme etc.
(C.in C. Nore, 1438/10, 1804/10).

W.N.83. — Sailed, 14 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1942/10).

10 M/V's. — Sailing.
(N.C.S.O. Dartmouth, 2132/10).

F.S.9. — Sailed, 16 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 2323/10).

Ocean Convoys.

O.G.52. — GENTAIN to rejoin.
(C.in C. W.A.0405/10).
Route.
(C.in C. W.A. 1347/10).

S.L.S.65. — Sailing telegram.
(N.C.S.O. Freetown, 0936/10).

H.X.106. — 2 tankers for Southampton.
(D.O.D.(H) 1145/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

S.L.63.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1230/10, N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1405/10).
H.X.105.	Arrivals, (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1350/10, N.C.S.O. Mersey, 1732/10).
S.C.20.	Arrivals, (N.O.I.C. Barry, 1350/10).
H.G.52.	Final destinations. (D.T.D. 1623/10, 1626/10).
H.X. S.C.,) and S.L.)	Order of sailing escort groups. (C.in C. W.A. 1739/10).
H.X.109.	Destinations. (D.T.D. to C.O.A.C. Halifax, 1851/10).

~~and~~ Ocean Convoys.

H.G. convoys to bunker for 26 days.	To allow for possible further diversion of H.G. Convoy to enable them to evade U/Boat patrol south of Cape St. Vincent, necessary for ships to bunker for 26 days if possible instead of 24 days. Ministry of Shipping asked to implement this policy as far as possible for H.G.54. (D.T.D. 2014/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

~~Odd~~ Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

Routes to Plate Ports. — Ships sailing for Plate ports have recently been routed as far as 60° 00'S. only. For Admiralty to keep an accurate track essential that ships be given further points on their ocean routes nearer destinations.
(D.T.D. 1156/10 to N.C.S.O. Oban).

Ships for Sweden, Faroes to be held. — Certain neutral ships bound for Sweden from westward have been routed through Skopen Fiord. Arrival of all such ships should be reported to Admty. and ships held pending further instructions.
(D.O.D.(H) 1832/10 to N.O.I.C. Faroes).

Procedure for stragglers. — Your 2005/7. This must cause a loss in security leading to enemy deducing valuable information. Considered undesirable to adopt a system entailing such risks until other methods of dealing with stragglers have been exhausted.
Proposed that the following action be taken:
(C.in C. W.A. 2305/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

NEWMARKET.	Am proceeding to Oban. Request permission to make good defect and sail at dawn/11. (NEWMARKET 1000/10).
GLENEARN.	H.M.S. GLENEARN sustained following damage due to bad weather. (S.O.Force Z, 1002/10).
MACLAREN. (Grounded 8/2).	Arrived SALVONIA with MACLAREN in tow. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1025/10).
VIVA II.	(A/S Yacht). B.D.V. PHYLISSIE collided with VIVA II. Lattermaking water badly will not be available for escort duty. (N.O.I.C. Falmouth 1540/10).
BOY ALAN. Sunk.	(M/S Drifter). Sunk in collision today with H.M.T. BEN GLAS in 51° 29' 33" N., 00° 48' 21" E. (Cdre. Sheerness 1728/10).
M.L.196.	Your 0842/10.M.L. 196 has not arrived. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2355/10 to N.O.I.C. Oban)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

French Ships passing Gib.

C. in C. A. and W.I. 2223/30 Gibraltar 0930/10 French light cruiser ALBATROS escorting French ships PIERRE-L-D, WYOMING, CHARLES-L-D, all in ballast, CHAMPAGNE loaded, passed Westbound.
(S.O.I. Gibraltar 1100/10 to Admty etc).

North Atlantic.

Convoy H.G.53.

Remain with convoy as long as fuel situation permits. Report e.t.a. Gibraltar when 200 miles from convoy.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0948/10 to VELOX).
Submarine attack on H.G. 53. (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN).

Las Palmas.

Bi-Weekly report. Military defence work principally machine gun posts in Northern and Southern areas of this Island continues.
(Las Palmas 1230/10 to Admty).

Interception of Danish Ships.

Your 1026/8. Agreed off Cartagena. At least three days notice will be given. Valencia knows nothing about it, matter being arranged from here.
(N.A. Madrid 1315/10 to F.O.C.N.A).

RENOWN.

Report present condition of RENOWN's bulges as affecting raider hunting operations in the Atlantic.
(C.N.S. 1649/10 to F.O. Force H).

MALAYA.

Report present state of MALAYA's condensers. How long is it considered that she can continue to operate without retubing?
(C.N.S. 1650/10 to F.O. Force H) Reply: 1615/12.

/BELGIQUE.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

BELGIQUE	Your 2342/8. U.K. Commercial Corporation being instructed to dispose of cargo of BELGIQUE in Spain. (D.E.W.D. 1652/10 to F.O.C.N.A). Your 2342/8. Ministry of Shipping are reluctant discharge BELGIQUE in Spain view possibility crew desertion and ask that possibility of docking ship laden to enable her to make convoy speed be further considered. (D.T.D. 2015/10 to F.O.C.N.A).
Las Palmas, Arrival of war material.	Spanish collier CONTRAMAESTRE CASADO left for Teneriffe 8/2 having discharged here following aircraft and war material (details) (Consul Las Palmes 1700/10 to Admty).
AGIOS SPYRIDON	Your 1326/8. Request report state Greek AGIOS SPYRIDON and prospects sailing. (Shipminder 1736/10 to F.O.C.N.A).
COURLAND. ESTRELLANO. (torpedoed 9/2)	Your 1603/8. Cargoes of COURLAND and ESTRILLANO as received were General Red Cross Manual and General Manual please confirm and explain term manual. (D.T.D. 2017/10 to N.O.S.O. Gibraltar).

South Atlantic.

Enemy Units	My 2237/9. Further bearings at 1817z and 1957z/9 indicate German unit or units in area between 010° - 020° N. 030° - 040° W. (C. in C. S.A. 0425N/10 to S.A. Sqdn).
POLYDORUS.	My 1118/3 Dutch ship POLYDORUS arrived Capetown 7/2. (S.O.I. Freetown 0928/10).

/DRAGON.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

DRAGON.	Your 1819/9. Visit of DRAGON extremely welcome. Civil and Military (?population) expressed keen desire for such a visit in view of valuable service rendered by DRAGON at Duala in July last. Visit should have good propaganda value. No units of Free French Navy are here at present. (N.C.S.O. Duala 1039/10).
Force Z.	Arrival 1100/10, C.S.10 in KENYA with DORSETSHIRE, FAULKNOR and FORESTER escorting Force Z. (S.O.I. Freetown 1137N/10).
CILICIA. CANTON.	C. in C. S.A's 0945/9. Propose CILICIA sails from Clyde 16/2 with special A/S escort arriving Freetown (date). Examination of CANTON'S boilers indicates desirability of completion of boiler cleaning. CILICIA'S endurance now 34 days. (F.O.C.N.P. 1230/10 to Admty).
LANCING time on passage.	Request enquire from Master of S.S.LANCING why he has taken 38 days on passage from Curacao to Rio de Janeiro. (D.T.D. 1708/10 to Consul Rio de Janeiro). Reply: see 1421/11.
GIMBULA	N.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1421/10 (Sailing of tanker GIMBULA for Freetown) Will GIMBULA contain water? (C. in C. S.A. 1951/10).
SCOTTISH TRADER.	SS SCOTTISH TRADER should be questioned on arrival whether she sighted U.S. Ship CHARLES H CRAMP on about 14/1 in 00°N. 19° W. (D.T.D. 2016/10 to N.C.S.O. Oban) Reply 1819/11.

/Information.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Information for U.S.	Your 1240/27. (Re information regarding movements of foreign merchant ships required by American Consul) Approved to give information. (Head of M. 2026/10 to S.O.I. Capetown).
KENYA.	To leave Freetown 1000N/11 for Plymouth. Route. (C. in C. S.A. 2021N/10).
EMPIRE TROOPER.	Your 1409/9 has been passed to F.O.C.N.A. for him to take action on para: 1. (D.O.D.(F) 2118/10 to C. in C. S.A).

Mediterranean.

Enemy Units.	One large transport escorted by two destroyers p.c. and s. (groups missing) 320° 14. (UNIQUE 0345/10 to V.A. Malta).
Shipping for Military Needs.	Your 2356/31. Request 4 ships maybe sent at once. It may be necessary to ask for a further 2 ships later. (C. in C. Med 0401/10 to Admty).
T.L.C. Stores.	A.T. 1202/9. Request stores be sent in STAG. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 0935/10 to Admty).
10th M.T.B. Flotilla.	Your 2245/28/1. Date (Head of M. to C. in C. Med 1557/10) See Mediterranean Volume.
CONSTANTZA S/M DOLFIN German inspection and possible acquisition	Now established that German naval personnel inspected Roumanian S/M depot ship CONSTANZA in Constantza harbour about 1/2. Reported German taking over Roumanian submarine DOLFIN and first of two submarines building Galatz when ready in Spring. Germans calling for 800 Roumanian volunteers, ratings. Battalions sent to Germany for training. (Wolffson, Beyoglu, 1230/10 amended 1115/11)

/DIULIO.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

DIULIO.
CESARE.
LITTORIO.
BISMARCK.
TIRPITZ.

Following from Navy Department. Rome 7/2 DIULIO arrived Genoa from Taranto 30/1 for extensive repairs and docking. CESITH (CESARE?) left Genoa last week for unknown destination. LITTORIO at Taranto. Russian Naval Attache presumably Berlin stated BISMARCK completed trials and joined fleet about 10/11. TIRPITZ undergoing trials and expected to join fleet about 1/2.
(Washington 1515/10).
N.I.D. Comment. DUILIO left Taranto between 10-16/1 and is thought to have gone to Trieste. CESARE left Genoa after 25/1 for an unknown destination. LITTORIO is in dock at Taranto. BISMARK is not thought to have completed trials as early as November. She may have done so now. TIRPITZ. Judging by the time taken by BISMARK she is unlikely to be ready by 1/2. She may have done basin trials but had not carried out any sea trials up to 5/2.

Spain.

Bi-weekly Report. Meeting of Franco and Mussolini. (N.A. Madrid 1637/10).

Malta, Enemy Air Recco.

Combined Services report Malta up to 1700/10/2. Enemy aircraft are carrying out continual reconnaissances during daylight hours all round Malta particularly south approaching at times sufficiently close to cause air alarm.
(H.C. Malta 1730/10).

Oilers.

Your 1239/6. Oilers BRITISH LORD cargo 9,100 tons and HOUGH HOOD cargo 14048 tons Furnace oil due Aden about 17/2. are allocated for first available convoy to Suez.
(D. of S. 1836/10 to C. in C. Med).

/USK.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 10.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

USK.
TRUANT.
UTMOST.
UPHOLDER.

To leave patrol and proceed to Malta as follows.
(Comdr. (S) 1 1903/10 to USK TRUANT, UTMOST, UPHOLDER).

Minesweepers arrived from U.K. with defective D.G.

Your 2301/6. Breakdown of D.G. Gear regretted. Each ship carries A.D.G. Certificate giving full details of wiring. The work of fitting temporary coils to these ships should not take more than 24 hours, using any commercial cable. Later ships are fitted with improved method of securing cable.
(D.M.S. 1928/10 to C. in C. Med).

Coast Defence Cyrenica.

In present circumstances threat of seabourne attack on Southern entrance of Suez Canal is considered so slight that 6-inch guns at Port Tewfik could be more usefully employed elsewhere. Subject to concurrence of S.B.N.O. Canal Area propose these guns be withdrawn and used for coast defence of Cyrenican ports.
(C. in C. Med. 2100/10 To G.H.Q. M.E.).

Operation "Result" 9/2.

Following in amplification of my 1227/9. Operation RESULT. Afternoon D.1, six destroyers in units of one or two ships sailed unobtrusively eastwards to rendezvous with rest of force on D.3. Remaining ships sailed dusk feinting to westward as if covering convoy H.G.53. Turned east after dark in 3 units to avoid detection.

(ii) D.2. no aircraft detected and fleet altered to N.E. after dark passing between Iviza and Majorca.

(iii) D.3. flat calm extreme visibility. The six destroyers joined A.M. (?) (Cover) made ground to north east turning south of east whenever aircraft detected by R.D/F. During day one civil and 2 French Military planes sighted fleet. One Fulmar and one Skua crashed on landing no one hurt. After dark proceeded towards Genoa 21 knots. 2 destroyers carried out W/T diversion east of Minorca at 2345.

/(iv).....

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Operation "Result" 9/2. (Contd.)

(iv) D.4. phenomenally good visibility till moon set at 0519. Subsequently slight haze and visibility decreased considerably. No patrol encountered. ARK ROYAL detached independently with 3 destroyers at 0400. Navigational fix passing Hyeres Light and excellent navigation brought bombarding force into exact position, off Portofino as dawn broke.

(v) Fire opened 0714, continued till 0744, when force withdrew southward. Sole opposition ineffective fire from about two six-inch guns and slight A/A fire against spotting aircraft. Evidently complete surprise achieved. Bombardment indirect using back horizon laying and gyro training. Target obscured from firing ships by morning haze. Aircraft reported no battleship present. Initial Salvoes fell as anticipated and greatly facilit ated by aircraft spotting.

(vi) Swordfish from ARK ROYAL as follows: Spezia 3 mined West and one mined East exit. 11 attacked Leghorn refinery, 1 Pisa aerodrome and 1 Pisa railway junction. One Swordfish failed to return.

(vii) ARK ROYAL rejoined 0900 and force withdrew at MALAYA's best speed. 2 shadowers shot down by fighters. 2 Fiat B.R.20 bombers attacked at 1140, dropping 4 bombs 1500 yards from nearest ship and retired northwards.

(viii) Fleet entered low cloud and reduced visibility at 1300. Throughout afternoon and forenoon, R/D.F. indicated air formations seeking Force H but probably prevented by lack of shadowers and poor visibility. No further attack.

(ix) Convoy of 7 merchant vessels sighted and examined at noon. Outward bound 6 French 1 Turkish. Allowed to proceed. All other merchant vessels sighted were in territorial waters or sufficiently close thereto to avoid interception.

(x) I attribute success of bombardment under difficult conditions to meticulous care taken by officers concerned in exercising bombardment detailed and success of operation to unbelievable laxity on part of enemy, coupled with very favourable weather conditions during withdrawal.
(F.O.Force H., 2229/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

10. 2. 41.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

YAMAHUZI MARU.	My 0646/9. Master at Bahrein was unwilling to surrender manifest. To avoid possible recourse to force matter was not pressed. (C. in C. E.1, 0608Z/10, to Admty.)
HERMES) HAWKINS)	Left Mombasa, 1032/10, G.M.T. (N.O.I.C. Kilindini, 1038Z/10.)
Kismayu, TANNENFELS, ASKARI.	My 0748/7. Air R.C. of Kismayu 7/2, revealed that German Ship TANNENFELS has sailed and ASKARI was not identified in the photograph which showed a total of 14 ships only in harbour. (C. in C. E.1., 1056Z/10.)
Swordfish A/C.	Your 0406.Z/31/1. It is not intended to disband this unit until "Canvas has been completed when further signal will be made. (Head of M. 1416/10, to C. in C. E.1.)

MOST SECRET.

10. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Villiers Net.	Suggestion that Villiers net fitted to merchant vessels for protection from submarine torpedo attack in 1918, should again be made use of.(N.O.I.C. Hong Kong, 0423Z/10, to Admty.)
Flying Boat Facilities.	Reply to his 0495 dated 3/2. Admty.Offer, of CITY OF DURBAN. (Air Ministry 1425/10, to A.H.Q, Far East.)

America and West Indies.

HUSKY VAN KINSBERGEN. Incident 5/2.	Your 1132/8. This would appear to be result of lack of knowledge, and experience and over-abundance of zeal on part of HUSKY. Concur with you that question as to who were captors should be immaterial. Request you take such steps as you consider necessary to prevent recurrence of such incidents. (N.S.H.Q. Ottawa, 1153/10, to C. in C. A.W.I.)
SWEDISH ship OSCAR GORTHEN.	Your 1916/28, Information given by a member of the crew; Captain and Chief Engineer strongly pro-Nazi. 27/1 at at 18° N, 146° E, sighted ship believed to be raider southbound 4 miles away black about 6000 tons 1 funnel clipper bow regular stern 1 gun uncertain of calibre smaller one aft no signs of aeroplane.(Honolulu, 1330z/10, to Admty.
TILAPA. (H.X.96.)	Your 1734/9. I have a note that Master expressed his inability to maintain necessity speed. (N.C.S.O. Bermuda, 1348/10, to Admty.)

/CRISTALES.....

MOST SECRET.

10. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies Contd.

CRISTALES.
CORRALES.
TACHEE.

Your 1741/9. Both vessels declared 12½ knots on their convoy forms M signed by Captain Gracie for CRISTALES and Captain Legge for CORRALES. Our special boarding forms show 13 knots and 12 knots respectively, also signed by above Master. No Master has so far been ordered into any H.X convoy. Your 1602/29, concerning TACHEE was answered by my 1508/30, repetition follows: Declared speed of DIONE 11 was 9 knots, but not ready for H.X.104 therefore sailed next S.C. (C. O.A.C. Halifax, 1523/10, to Admty.)

Japanese Arms for Callao.

Your 1529Z/27/1, Following from San Francisco (begins) U.S.N. Authorities report that Honolulu advised order was consigned to Ministry of War Callao for Peruvian Army. 660 cases 3-ins. and 1-pounder projectile in No.1 hold, 38 cases detonators in No. 2 hold. Japanese very perturbed about cases being opened, implying that another shipment was due next month. (Ends.) (N.S.H.Q., Ottawa, 1639/10, to Capt. O.S, Singapore.)

RAMON DE LARRINAGA.

(British) capsized and sunk in Delaware River. Books are being recovered by divers. (N.C.S.O. Philadelphia, 1740/10, to Admty.)

MOST SECRET.

10. 2. 1941.
Monday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Australia.

Convoy U.S.9.	HOBART escorting U.S.9, arrived Fremantle 2326Z/9. (A.C.N.B., 05532/10. to Admty etc.)
Independent Sailings.	Adty. 1628/23. Week ending 17/2, class (ii) Greek GEORGES LIVANOS, Melbourne 14/2, for Colombo and Suez. Ex. Danish WESTRALIA Melbourne 12/2, for Singapore. British NARBADA Melbourne 15/2, for Colombo and Suez. (A.C.N.B, 1200Z/10.)

MOST SECRET.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

SPICA.	Reported from Villa Real De Santo Antonio, to be preparing for sea. Reported destination Huelva.C.2. (N.C.S.O. Lisbon, 1639/10 to F.O.C.N.A.)
TANNENFELS.	Has left Kismayu. (C.in C. E.I. 1056Z/10) See East Indies.
CORDELIA.	Arrived from Turkey. Departed for Burgas Istanbul in ballast embark Officers and men Batoum. (Vice-Consul Verna, 1830/10).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CONTE GRANDE.	At Santos received 300 tons oil fuel 10/2. (S.O.(I) Montevideo, 1446Z/10).
CLICIA.	Reported sailed 9/2 destination unknown. (Vice-Consul, Gijon T.H.I. 2130/10).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

WINNIPEG and WYOMING.	C.in C. America and West Indies 1223/9. See my 0931/31 WINNIPEG westwards San Antonio and my 1100/10 WYOMING etc. passed westbound). (1751/10).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.1.1941.
Monday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.	
H.G.53.	Convoy H.G.53 attacked by submarine 036° N., 016° W. (VELOX, 0641Z/10 to Admty, F.O.C.N.A.) Informing North Atlantic Station. (F.O.C.N.A. 0849/10). My 0849/10. Amend position to read 036° 24'N., 016° 38'W. (F.O.C.N.A. 0943/10 to N.A.Station). Convoy H.G.53 again attacked by U/Boat in 036° (10' 24'N 016° 38'W. (DEPTFORD 0700/10 to F.O.C.N.A.) D/F bearings at 1311/10 indicate that U/Boat is still in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 1756/10 to VELOX, DEPTFORD). DEPTFORD 1200/10 (No trace). Have asked (?Oporto) Lisbon and Punta Delgada if any tug is available. Intend to carry out reconnaissance by Sunderland Flying Boat at daylight tomorrow and to sail Fleet Tug ST. DAY (? On arrival of) Force H at Gibraltar. (F.O.C.N.A., 1804/10 to Admty). My 1804. (Corrupt Group) is sending tug, should reach ship a.m./12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1902/10 to Admty). Your 1804/10. Fleet tug ST. DAY not required by Force H. (S.O. Force H., 2025/10 to F.O.C.N.A.) D/F bearings at 2308/10 indicate that U/Boat is still in your vicinity. (D.D.I.C. 2342/10 to VELOX, DEPTFORD).
W.B. WALKER (torpedoed 29/1).	Attempted this morning to reach position indicated in your 2350/9. (stern half of W.B. WALKER). Weather too bad. Returning to South Minch with escort. (SEAMAN 1130/10 to F.O.I.C. Greenock). Your 1130/10. Stern half of W.B.WALKER reported well afloat in 56° 47'N., 10° 55'W. A.M./10. This ship is of great value and it is important that you should proceed as soon as possible. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1725/10 to SEAMAN).

MOST SECRET.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

WAR DIARY.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

PIZZARO. (Sunk 31/1).

Your 1649/9 S.S. PIZZARO believed sunk 31/1 Six survivors including Master landed Lisbon 5/2, remaining 23 not yet accounted for. (D.T.D. 2013/10 to N.O.I.C. Stornoway).

Submarines Reported.

1448.

Am ever enemy Submarine in position 54.21N., 15.50W.
(A/C 214 Squadron 1448/10 to Oban).

2050.

One submarine in sight bearing 120° 3 miles course unknown. My position based on reference position of Admiral 60.59N., 12.44W.
(NELSON, 2050/10).
NELSON 2050. Proceed and search.
(C.in C.H.F.2218/10 to Capt: D.5.)
Join KELLY searching for submarine in approximate position 060°59'N,, 012° 44'W.
(R.A.D.H.F. 2325/10 to JACKAL).
C.in C. Home Fleet, 2218. Request air search.
(Capt: D.5. 2340/10 to C.in C. W.A.)

2156.

An enemy submarine has made a first sighting report of a large formation.
(D.D.I.C. 2156/10).
My2156/10 Bearing of U/B 346/1 from Lands Ends. Probable that units of Home Fleet were being reported.
(D.D.I.C. 2215/10).

2214.

D/F bearing 306° second class Italian submarine probably.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2214/10 to S. and A. N.Atlantic)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

10.2.1941.
Monday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Estimated numbers and positions are unreliable.

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

German.

1 90 miles of 53 30'N., 17 30'W.
1 60 miles of 55 30'N., 18 W.
1 or possibly two 58°N., 60° N., 16° W., 24°W.
1 50° N., 53° W., 30° W., 34° W.
1 36° 24'N., 16° 38' W. 0700/10 following H.G.53.

Italian.

2 N.W. Approaches.
(D.D.I.C. 1238/10).

Submarines Attacked.

By Aircraft 1650.

Have attacked enemy submarine with bombs level estimated 2 hits in 56.30N., 14.38 W. surfaced on fire.A/C 218 Sdn.1650/10/Aldergrove Submarine sank stern first on fire. Am returning to base.
(A/C 218 Squdn., 1745/10 to Aldergrove.)
A/C 218 Sqdn., Duty T 1745/10. After having questioned Captain of Aircraft no doubt object attacked was a U/Boat and from this description of incident it would appear that she was destroyed. Only doubt is that about 4 men were seen on Conning tower and were not subsequently seen in the water.
(C.in C. W.A. 2331/10 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Operation P.X.

EREBUS, escorted by destroyers, bombarded targets at Ostend early this morning after bombing attack by aircraft.
Spotting was carried out by Swordfish of F.A.A. 40 rounds are estimated to have fallen in the target area. The enemy took no action.

S.S. FYLKE torpedoed by SEALION.

SEALION reports that she attacked 2 merchant vessels off the coast of Norway on 1/2 and possibly torpedoed one of them. On 5/2 she torpedoed Norwegian S.S. FYLKE, evacuated the crew and passengers and set the ship on fire with 30 rounds of H.E.

British Air Activity.

Beauforts of Coastal Command attacked the power station and docks at Cherbourg last night, and Blenheims bombed Ostend prior to bombardment by EREBUS. 35 aircraft bombed Rotterdam Petroleum Harbour. Invasion ports were also attacked.
Hudsons bombed the docks at Kristiansand South today.
One destroyer and 26 merchant vessels were seen in the harbour.
A special patrol to intercept enemy warships was again flown South-East of Iceland this forenoon.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

Very slight damage was caused in the dockyard during an attack on Chatham last night.

S.S. KINGSTOWN was attacked 8 miles S.W. of Milford Haven this morning, but was not damaged.
Fleetwood Trawler EAMONT was attacked this evening off Dunbeath and is anchored in Lybster with a U.X.B. on board.
Trawler JOHN DUNKIN was bombed this evening 13 miles N. by E. of Buckie; the crew were taken off and the vessel is believed to have sunk later, A.P. trawler ARNOLD BENNETT was machine gunned this evening 10 miles north of Lossiemouth (no details), and S.S. CANTIC HEAD was machine gunned this evening 30 miles N.W. of Kinnaird Head but suffered no damage, though her master was wounded.

Trawler ARACARI was slightly damaged by air attack 25 miles S.W. of Fastnet this afternoon.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft last night is suspected off the north coast of Norfolk and towards Skegness and the Humber. It is estimated that 40 aircraft were employed.

27 mines were detonated off the Humber today, 9 magnetic and 18 acoustic. The river is closed to navigation.
3 magnetic mines were exploded between the Mull of Kintyre and Davaar Lt. (near Campbeltown).

6 Beauforts dropped mines in the Ems last night.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

DAGMAR I. — A Portuguese tug is proceeding to British DAGMAR I, abandoned after the air attack on Convoy H.G.53 on 9/2 but still afloat, and expects to reach the position tomorrow morning.

RENOWN — F.O. Force H, considers RENOWN can be used for hunting in Atlantic for a limited period, but there is risk of repeating previous damage to her bulge if high speed is necessary in rough weather.

South Atlantic.

Force Z. — Escorted by DORSETSHIRE, left Freetown this morning for Capetown. KENYA, which had escorted Force Z to Freetown, left this morning to return to Plymouth.

LANCING — The Master of the Norwegian LANCING has returned to Rio de Janeiro as a result of a message from New York while on passage to the Antarctic whaling ground. There appears to be some doubt as to its authenticity.

Enemy M.V.'s — German and Italian merchant vessels at Para have raised steam.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Cyrenaica Ports.	Some 3,000 tons of supplies per day, apart from the conveyance of personnel and tanks, are required for the Army and R.A.F. in Cyrenaica. Tobruk is to be developed as the main base, with Derna and Sollum or Bardia as subsidiaries. C.in C. Mediterranean has summarised requirements for a reasonable port organisation.
SOUTHERN FLOE	(A/S Trawler) was lost off Tobruk today, presumably by a mine.
GLASGOW	Is to sail for Suez tomorrow after repair. C.in C. East Indies has asked if he may keep her to help meet demands for ocean escorts.
Suez Canal.	Six ships including one of 15000 tons, which had been held up have arrived at Suez. It is intended to start traffic northwards from Suez at daylight tomorrow.
	C.in C. Med. reports that the problem of watching the Canal for enemy aircraft minelayers is complicated by the lack of sufficient personnel. The Egyptians are useless in air raids, and 3 or 4 battalions of infantry will be required, though it is doubtful whether more than one can be spared for any length of time. The Army have patrol vessels and S.B.N.O. Suez Canal Area is acquiring what boats he can for the Lakes.
	A balloon unit and a P.A.C. unit intended for Malta are being diverted to the Canal Zone.
Air attacks on Malta.	Last night, 3 enemy aircraft dropped bombs at the aerodromes, but no damage was caused. This afternoon a petrol lighter in St. Paul's Bay Sunderland Sub-station was slightly damaged by air attack.
Air attack on Rhodes.	The aerodromes at Rhodes were again successfully attacked last night.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

HAWKINS this morning captured three Italian ships, S.S. ADRIA, ERMINIA MAZZELA, and SAVOIA, off Kismayu and is sending them to Mombasa, (See also 12/2).

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MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

SUFFOLK. To be sailed for Scapa to work up when ready for sea. 2. When ready for service she will join the 1st. C.S. in the Home Fleet. (D.O.D.(H) 1223/11.)

Destroyer for 17th Divn. Request you will detail one further Town Class Destroyer to join 17th Div. 2. Ship selected should if possible complete Stage II before the end of February. (A.C.N.S.(H).1225/11, to C. in C. W.A.)

AVONVALE
ERIDGE
FARNDALE
HEYTHROP. To proceed to Scapa on completion of trials to work up prior to proceeding to the Red Sea, where they are urgently required. (D.O.D. (H) 1338/11.)

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/11. (D.C.1215/11.) At 2330/11. (D.C. 0003/12.)

Movements.

Orders to URGE. Proceed to patrol about 15 miles west of Utvaer. Intelligence.(F.O.S. 1059/11,to URGE.)

SOUTHDOWN. Do not arrive at Nore L.V. before 1400/12. (C. in C. Nore 1227/11.)

TUNA. TUNA leaves patrol after dark 20/2, (route). TUNA enters home station at 0600 B.S.T. /22. (Capt. (S) 2 1511/11, 1512/11.)

Northern Patrol. Trawler line occupied tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/11.)

CANTON. C. in C. S.A. 0945/9 CANTON completes boiler cleaning (date) and will be ready to sail (date) (F.O.C.N.P. 1626/11.)

S/M's. Positions.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

S/M's. — Positions at 0800/12 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.(S.)1639/11.)

RESOLUTION and destroyers. — My 1738/S. Request necessary A/S escort and R/V may be arranged. (D.O.D.(H) 1755/11. to C. in C. W.A.)

CACHALOT to patrol off Fro Havet. — Your 1241/11/2/41, para B.(See Mining) Concur. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1759/11, to F.O.(S)

Operations.

Search for Enemy Cruiser. — Your 0300. At 0830 my p.c. and s. will be 059° 11' N, 009° 57' W, 110° 20 knots. (C. in C. H.F. 0424/11, to C. in C. Rosyth.)

My 1739/10, para. 2. NIGERIA and ARETHUSA are to remain on patrol in area until 2100/12, and are then to proceed to Reykjavik to refuel. (C. in C. H.F. 1741/11. to NIGERIA, ARETHUSA, C.S.2.)

Seaps arrivals. 1825. C. in C. H.F. in NELSON, ELECTRA, ECLIPSE, TARTAR. 1850 EDINBURGH. 2045 RODNEY KING GEORGE V. BEDOUIN, ZULU, MAORI INGLEFIELD, BRILLIANT. (A.C.O.S. 2048/11.)

Operation "P.X.". — Cancel my CH/WS/11/2, and substitute: "A/C carried out operation PX over Ostend between 0100 and 0140 hours. Shells were seen to burst well in target area. Several fires were started. Explosions also seen, one of which was followed by intense blue flash. (A.C.H.Q. Chatham 0830/11.)

/Operation.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

11. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements Contd.

Operation P.I. Of 84 rounds fired 24 hits were observed on target area with 6 observed hits on Pens themselves. In all 40 rounds considered to have fallen in target area with one large warehouse fire. Spotting conditions good, but results almost entirely dependent on initial use of H.E, and later results were partly unobserved due again to unsuitability of C.P.C.shell. No enemy action. (EREBUS 1516/11.)

S.S. FYLKE torpedoed by SEA LION.

SEALION reports. 1/2 attacked, two merchant vessels 352° Kvitenaes Point 1½ miles. Possibly one hit.5/2 attacked, Norwegian s.s. FYLKE 2 miles North Kvitenaes Point one hit. Evacuated crew and passengers then set ship on fire with 30 rounds H.E. No aircraft seen. Enemy Intelligence. (F.O.S.1102/11.)

British Air Activity.

Attack on Wilhelmshaven.

Night 9/10 Feb. 14 Hampdens attacked estimated positions of the naval centre at Wilhelmshaven. Two Hampdens attacked oil storage at Nordenham. Day 10/2. One Blenheim Attacked docks and shipping at Calais, and 6 Blenheims attacked Dunkirk with Fighter escort.4 Blenheims attacked Docks and shipping at Emden, Den Helder. (H.Q.B.C.T.F.(0115/11.)

Patrols.

Additional patrols being flown today, Fair, Unst, Stand p.m. Hecco. Kristiansand. (C. in C. Rosyth 0810/11.)

My 1931/10. SUNDERLAND will not fly second Sortie 1500 to 1900 owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1146/11.)

/Hornli.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity Contd.

Hornli now in operation one A/C also offensive recce of Kristiansand South and adjacent coastline by six A/C. (C. in C. Rosyth 1902/11.)

0.561. If the weather permits I will have one patrol standing by 12/2, for southward areas specified W.O. 50820 (W.O.S.) 8/2. This patrol will not be sent unless specially requested by you. W.O. please pass to Coastal Command. (C.O.C. Iceland Force 2025/11.)

Your 1936/8. (repeating C.O.C. I.F. 2025/11.) (F.O.i/c Iceland 2031/11.to Admty.)

By 0140/2. C.O.C. informs me that both patrols have returned with negative reports. First patrol: 061° 00' N, 019° 00'W, 060°(?80')021° 00' 062° 00' 019° 00' 062° 00' 013° 30'. Second Patrol carried out as far as 061° 48' N. 021° 10' W. Visibility various 2-16 miles. Saw trawler with marking FY 88 in position 062° 20' N, 021° 14' W.(F.O.I.C, Iceland 2117/10.)

Patrol FUGLE as for today 11/2, and Iceland Patrol will be flown tomorrow 12/2. (C. in C. Rosyth 2314/11.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoy F.S. — Fighter aircraft being sent to assistance of convoy MERIT (F.S.Convoy). (Rosyth /W/T. 0842/11.)

Attack on Chatham 10/2. — Attack on Chatham at 2245/10. Slight damage. Chatham dockyard. (details.) (C. in C. Nore 1712/11.)

/ARACARI.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. Contd.

ARACARI. (British Trawler 245), was slightly damaged by air attacks and had one casualty 1500/11, 25 miles S.W. of Fastnet. (D.O.R.)

S.S. KINGSTOWN attacked. S.S. KINGSTOWN reports attack by aircraft 8 miles S.W. of Milford at 1100 dropped two bombs, and opened fire with machine gun. No damage, no casualties. (N.O.I.C. Barry 1940/11.)

EAMONT. bombed. P.V. HARMONY landed 10 survivors of Fleetwood Trawler EAMONT at Helmsdale at 2000 Reports, 2 miles off Dunbeath German bomber dropped 3 bombs on trawler one direct on wheelhouse still unexploded in Wheelhouse. 2 exploded alongside trawler anchored 24 fathoms fishing craft in Lybster told not to go near her. (F.O.I.C. Invergordon. 2237/11.)

Mining.

Humber. Humber will remain closed to navigation today. (F.O. Humber 0945/11, 27 mines exploded today. Positions etc.(F.O. Humber 2302/11, 0955/12.)

Ref. F.O. Humber. 2355/10. (Refusal of Coastal Command to allow (minelaying) aircraft to be fired at.)

I fully appreciate R.A.F. point of view but this is not the best way to win the war. We have many Aerodromes but few harbours and the safe arrival of cargoes is vital.

/Situation.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Situation has been reached where grave shipping and mine-sweeper losses must be expected or alternatively there must be some inconvenience to two aerodromes and a measure of risk to some of our aircraft. Even if we shot down every night one British and three enemy bombers, we should be winning the war more quickly than with present procedure.

The loss of life and material due to constant mining in our harbours and their approaches is immensely in excess of anything that has occurred or might occur in British Aircraft fired at in error by our guns. (C. in C. Nore 1120/11.)

Operation B. 3. 51.

Postponed 24 hours on account of Humber being closed to navigation. All times in My 1135/10 to be 24 hours later accordingly. (S.O. M.L. Immingham 1030/11).

Sweep off Kinnaird Head.

A.C.O.S. 2151/2. Low percentage search of area lying between Western Edge of Eastern mine barrier and Q.Z.S.160, extended to Kinnaird Head has been completed without result. (M.S. One 1031/11.)

Thames Estuary.

Blue mine detonated by L.L. Trawlers EMILION and EARL ESSEX at 0120/11 in position 034° B.5 buoy 6 cables near outside (50 yards). Capt. M/S Sheerness 1055/11.)

Sweep of Gap A.

My 1214/7 and A.C.O.S. 1202/9, and Admty., 2003/10. On 14/2, or as soon afterwards as practicable the 1st and 5th M.S.F's are to carry out single Oropesa exploratory sweeps of Gap A and its Eastern Approaches as follows:-

On completion of the operation the 1st. M.S.F. is to proceed Harwich and the 5th M.S.F. to Aberdeen. (C. in C. Rosyth 1059/11.)

/Operation.....

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Operation P. W. 4.	Weather permitting Operation P.W4, will be carried out tonight Tuesday by MTB's 22 32 and 34 leaving Harwich 1800. (C. in C. Nore 1133/11.)
	Operation P.W.4, cancelled owing to fog. (C. in C. Nore 1931/11.)
Operation Z.M.E.16.	Intend leaving Milford Haven at 1900/today for operation Z.M.E.16 to lay at 2240, returning on completion about 0230/12. (PLOVER 1141/11.)
Mine barrier South of 58° N.	Your 2230/10. Least depth is 7 feet below M.L.W.S.(D.D.O.D.(H) 1235/11, to C in C. Nore.)
Operation by CACHALOT.	A. As CACHALOT may be required to patrol off Pro Havet for a few more days it seems unlikely she will be able to carry out F.D.29. B. Observing she is loaded with non-floaters propose on leaving patrol she lays close southwest of Flatoy (67° 55' N, 14° 46' E.) (F.O.S. 1241/11.)
Operations by 20th D.F.	If you do not require 20th D.F. request you will sail them to arrive Plymouth by 18/2, to carry out operations detailed in my 1202/6. Mines now on board will be used for first operation. (A.C.N.S.(H) 1258/11. to C. in C. H.F.)
Operations S.E. 7 E. S.N. 68A.	Your 1929/8, not to all addressees. Cover will not be available until 13/2. (11) Intend F.O.C. 18th C.S. in EDINBURGH will provide close escort and RODNEY will cover operation. (111) A fourth destroyer will be sailed to augment your A/S screen. (C. in C. H.F. 1944/11. to R.A.N.L.)

/Hull of .....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining Contd.

Mull of Kintyre to Davaar It.

N.O.I.C. Campbeltown's 0001/10. Three enemy D. magnetic mines destroyed as follows. Main channel from Trevor Head point to position 330° 6.5 cables from Otterara Rock Buoy swept 6 red 6 blue 280 yards wide. Also through position (A) twice swept with 8 (A) Mark 1 gear. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1955/11.)

Enemy Intelligence.

Trawler A221 SUNLIGHT. Sighted by CURACOA.

Your 1552/10. Trawler was painted green hull and red bottom. Number in white paint was read by signalling projector. (A.C.C.S. 1238/11. to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen

Aircraft reports.

1 M V 500 tons 1 flakship 090 - 1 270 55° 9' N 7° 22'E. 1 M.V. 3000 tons 1 flakship 301 2 280. (P/235 Sqn.55° 9' N. 7° 0'E1245/11.)

MOST SECRET.

11. 8. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal Convoys.

F. S. 8. — Sailed 0301, 9 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 0806/11, 0936/11.) Absentees (0937/11.)

F. S. 7. — Position, 34 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1005/11.) Arrived (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1846/11.)

F. N. 4. — Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1059/11) Ships to join. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 1806/11.)

W. N.84. — COLOMBIA to join, (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1100/11.) Your 1100/11. COLOMBIA not to join, to remain Clyde. (C. in C. W.A., 1951/11.)

W. N.82. — Arrived 1200. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1230/11.)

F. S. 9. — Numbers joining. (C. in C. Rosyth, 1252/11.)

Topdalsfjord. — Route for stragglers from Topdalsfjord Convoy. (D.T.D., 1339/11.)

E. N. 70. — Loch Ewe ships to be diverted to Oban. (D.T.D., 1445/11.) EDINA sailed to join. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen, 2005/11.)

O. B. C. 286. — Sailing dates (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0953/11.) 10 ships ex E.N.U. 69, to join. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1205/11.)

O. B. 286. — Sailing dates (N.C.S.O. Belfast 1800/11.)

W. N. 83. — List. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1008/11.)

W. N. 83(6) — Sailed (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1615/11.) List 1700/11.)

/E.N.U.69.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

E.N.U.69. 2308/10, unescorted, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1106/11.)

10 ships Ex E.N.U.69, sailing Oban, in E.N.70, to join O.B. 286. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1205/11.) E.N.U. 69, arrived 1200/11, N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1447/11.

E.N.70. List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1434/11.) Sailed 1100/11. Escorts. 15 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1455/11.)

F.N.5. 0945/11, 40 ships, (N.C.S.O, Thames, 1306/11.) List and destinations. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1552/11.)

O.B.285. Sailed 1330/11. 8 ships. (N.C.S.O. Mersey 1453/11.

O.B.O.285. Sailing date, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1650/11.)

F.S.9. Sailed 1500. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1504/11.) List (1759/11.)

F.N. & F.S. Escorts. Amending 1546/9. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1612/11.)

Ocean Convoys.
H.X.107. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.: (D.T.D, 1331/11.)

S.L.65. Sailing telegram. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1149/11.) Absentees. (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1512/11.)

/S.L.63.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

S.L.63.	2 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Clyde,1231/11.) 8 arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Mersey,1431/11.) 6 arrivals. (N.O.I.C. Barry,1730/11.)
H.G.54.	List and destinations. (F.O.C.N.A., 1631/11.)
S.C.21.	Meet. (C. in C. W.A, 1703/11, to VANOC, VOLUNTEER, etc.)
H.X.104.	1 arrival. (N.O.I.C. Barry,1730/11.) All ships (21) arrived. (details) (D.S. 526.)
S.H.X.104.	All arrived (34 ships) (details) (D.S.526.)
H.X.105.	All arrived. (35 ships) (details.) (D.S.526.)
H.X.109.	AUSONIA to escort. (F.O.3 B. S1611/11.)
CYMBULA H.G.53.	F.O.I.C. Liverpool's 1421/10, You will probably escort CYMBULA until p.m./15, joining DEPTFORD on H.G.53 on 16/2. (C. in C. W.A. 1121/11, to LONDONDERRY, FREESIA.)
H.X.106.	There is danger to eastward of line joining Sulisker Rock and Vestrahord Iceland. (C. in C. W.A. 1139/11, to MALCOLM for Cdre. H.X.106.

/SPICA.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 11. 2. 1941.
Tuesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

SPICA. Sailing 11/2, (Route) to Scrabster.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik 1249/11. to Admty.)

NARVA. Sailing 12th/13th/2. (Route) to Clyde.
(N.C.S.O. Reykjavik, 1249/11. to Admty.)

ANJA. Route through Skopen Fiord, Faroes.
(D.T.D., 1728/11. 1830/11.)

Route Signals. To reduce cyphering, signals to Admty, requesting routes to be in following form. (1) Word "Route", (2) Name of ship, (3) speed, (4) distinction, (5) sailing date. (D.T.D, 2020/11 to C. in C.'s Rosyth and W.A.)

Military Convoys.
W. S. 6. (B) V.C.N.S. 1335/11. See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

S.S. STANFORTH.

Ashore P.B. 1 Buoy. (STANFORTH 0745/11.)

Now afloat B.D. one (STANFORTH 0810/11.)

Aground again 194° 1 mile B.D.1. buoy, uncertain my position. (STANFORTH 0850/11)

Proceed to afford cover to S.S. STANFORTH reported aground vicinity of B.7. buoy. Tug proceeding. You are not to leave swept channel. If ship gets off escort her to the Nore. (C. in C. Nore 1051/11. to VICEROY.)

Received De (STANFORTH. Cancel my 0745/11 0810/11, 0850/11. Ends. (N. Foreland Radio T.O.R. 1105/11.)

Aground 125° ½ mile B.7, Buoy. Require asistance (STANFORTH 1110/11.) Am being assisted by Adty.trawler EAGER.(STANFORTH 1125/11.)

My 1051, STANFORTH reported afloat and proceeding. Escort her to Nore L.V. (C. in C. Nore 1137/11, to VICEROY.)

Your 1051. STANFORTH last seen at 0500. She was not seen aground to southward of B.7. ST. ALBANS did not pass any ship aground. Am returning to investigate. (VICEROY 1155/11 to C. in C. Nore.)

Your 1155. S.S. STANFORTH reported aground 125° ½ miles B.7 buoy at 1110, and being assisted by EAGER at 1125. (C. in C. Nore 1327/11. to VICEROY.)

S.S.DALEMOOR
BORGFRED.

DALEMOOR returned from HX.108 BORGFRED from SC22 leaking and engine repairs, respectively. (N.C.S.O. Halifax 0944/11.)

/M.L. 196.....

MOST SECRET.

11. 2. 41.
Tuesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES & DEFECTS.

M.L.196.	Your 2355/10, presume M.L.196, unable make destination in daylight yesterday and anchored as requisite. (N.O.I.C. Oban 1030/11. to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)
SINGAPORE 3.	My 1837/7, and D. of S.T's 1544/10, search for SINGAPORE 3, unsuccessful, must be considered a total loss. No casualties. (Care i/c. Sheerness 1089/11.)
S.S.FLIMSON KELSO.	S.S. FLIMSON and S.S. KELSO both in convoy WN 82, in collision of May Island a.m./11. S.S. FLIMSON holed and beached in Largo Bay at 0715, leaking badly. Cargo lorries and steel plates and in view of valuable nature master requests salvage tug, and divers may be sent as soon as possible. No suitable tug available at Methil. Ship is lying on sandy bottom and still has use of engines. Nothing known of S.S. KELSO since collision. (N.O.I.C. Methil, 1110/11.)
UBEROUS (ashore 11/1.)	N.O. i/c Londonderry's 2222/10. Salvage of L.L. Sweeper UBEROUS at Londonderry will seriously delay Clyde mooring work i undertaken by MOORFOWL. Mooring program is already much behind schedule owing to unfavourable weather.(A.S. Rosyth 1125/11
M.L. 147.	Your 0748/11. M.L.147 arrived Newhaven with engine trouble. M.L.153 and 186 proceeding. (N.O. i/c Newhaven 1483/11 to V.A. Dover.
S.S. ALLENDN.	Arrival ex S.C.20 degaussing defective. (N.C.S.O. Swansea 1445/11.)
BLYSKAWICA	Complete. Has proceeded to Greenock. (F.O.I.C. Glasgow 1616/11.)

MOST SECRET

War Diary

11.2.1941.
Tuesday

FOREIGN STATIONS

North Atlantic

Attack on Convoy H.G. 53 9/2.

British ship DAGMAR I was abandoned after damage sustained in air attack in 035° 42' N., 14° 38' W., p.m. 9/2. Portuguese tug GAVIAO from Funchal expects to reach position a.m. 12/2. (F.O.C.N.S., 1152/11 to S. and A. N. Atlantic)

BELGIQUE

Your 2015/10. In view of age and condition of ship am not prepared to accept risk of docking laden. (F.O.C.N.A. 1241/11 to Admty.)

COURLAND
ESTRELLANO

Your 2017/10 (Re cargoes) Confirmed explanation ref. a.m. 1332/27/12/40. (N.C.S.O. Gibraltar 1641/11)
Daily Summary Operations. Used Sunderland waiting Gibraltar for Bathurst to locate abandoned ship ex H.G. 53. (200 Group 1700/11)

Force H (Operation "Result")

Times of arrival and ammunition required (S.O.Force H., 0907/11, to F.O.C.N.A. etc.,) Arrived. (S.O.I. Gib., 1620/11)

BELGIQUE's Cargo

Action on my 1652/10 suspended until receipt of your reply to my 2015/10. (D.T.D. 1340/11 to F.O.C.N.A.,)

AGION SPYRIDON

Your 1736/10. Present speed of ship 5½ knots, bottom very foul, not considered possible to increase speed appreciably by scraping by divers, in view of age of ship am not prepared to accept risk of docking her laden with ore. (F.O.C.N.A., 1702/11 to Admty.)

RENOWN

State of, in connection with use for raider hunting (F.O.Force H 1924/11) See Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

Darkening Ship.

Consider all Merchant Vessels not in Company should burn dimmed navigation lights near coast of Union of South Africa as follows:
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown, 0825Z/11 to C.inC. S.A.

Force Z.

Freetown departure 0600/11 DORSETSHIRE and Force Z direct route to Capetown E.T.A.
(C.in C. S.A. 0851/11 to Admty, N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

KENYA.

My 2021/10/2. For Speed of advance 20 knots read 18.7 knots.
(C.in C. S.A. 1000/11 to C.S.10).
Departure 1000/11/2 F.O.C.S.10 in KENYA in accordance with C.in C. S.A. 2021N/10.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1119N/11 to Admty).
Your 1210/11. Following is repetition of position (C) in my 2021/10.
(C.in C. S.A. 2231N/11 to F.O.C.N.A.)

CORNWALL.

Date of readiness for sea Admty. 2300/8.
(F.O.I.C. Simonstown 1430/11).

LANCING, why 38 days on passage.

Your 1708/10. Master of Norwegian ship LANCING (states:) while on passage from Curacao to Antarctic Whaling Ground and when in about 050 S., 010 W., about 26/1. Master received W/T signal en clair from NORTRASHIP, New York, instructing him to proceed to nearest South American Port. Master doubtful as to authenticity of this signal and requested repetition in private code, upon receipt of which course was shaped for Rio de Janeiro. Master also states that he intercepted W/T signal from NORTRASHIP, New York, in private code addressed to Norwegian ship PELAGOS advising Norwegian factory ships OLE WEGGER and SOLGLIMT had been (as received) and suggesting Norwegian ship PELAGOS should stand further south into ice to evade raider. (Ends). Ship is now awaiting orders.
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1421/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

ASTURIAS. Your 1619Z/6. Visit approved.
(N.A. Rio de Janeiro 1505/11 to R.A.S.A.D.)

NORSEMAN. Cable ship NORSEMAN now proceeding Pernambuco where due 16/2.
(N.C.S.O. Rio de Janeiro 1551/11).

Enemy Unit. D/F bearings at 0358Z/11 indicated presumed Enemy Auxiliary within 150 miles of 022° S., 10° W. reliability 60%. Within 500 miles of this position reliability 95%.
(C.in C. S.A. 1635N/11 to S.A.Squadron.)

CYMBULA. Your 1951/10 CYMBULA will contain 6770 tons drinking 2750 tons boiler water.
(D. of S.T. 1711/11 to C.in C. S.A.)
CYMBULA left escorted by FREESIA.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool 1144/11).

Whalers. Important that the 4 LL Whalers converting in S. Africa should arrive at Alexandria at earliest possible date.
Request early report as to expected date of sailing.
(D.M.S. 1722/11 to N.O.I.C. Simonstown).

SCOTTISH TRADER sighting of U.S. ship. Your 2016/10. Master's report SCOTTISH TRADER was in 00° 50'N., 18° 59'W, on 11/1, course N. (true) speed 9 knots, time 0700. Ship observed distant 8 to 10 miles. Apparently steaming S.E. at estimated speed 10 knots - visibility very good. (description of ship). Flag painted amidships barely discernible through telescope as U.S. Vessel kept under observation from 0700 to 0800. SCOTTISH TRADER must have been sighted by this vessel but no attempt was made to increase speed or alter course.
(N.C.S.O. Oban, 1819/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY. 11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

CILICIA.	F.O.C.N.P.'s 1230/10. Special escort cannot be made available and CILICIA is being sailed in accordance with para. 5 of A.T. 1335/11. (D.O.D.(F) 1906/11 to C.in C. S.A.)
GUDRUN MAERSK.	11/2 departure for Clyde. (Route.) (N.C.S.O. Freetown 1959/11 to Admty etc.)

Mediterranean.

Cyrenaica Base Requirements.	Capture of Cyrenaica necessitates Army operating in that area being supplied almost entirely by sea. Tobruk has to be developed as main base, with Derna and Sollum or Bardia as subsidiaries. Also necessary to develop Benghazi. Requirements of Army and Air Force amount to some 3000 tons of supplies per day apart from conveyance of personnel and tanks etc. to and fro. Development of defences and running of these ports requires naval staff which it is quite beyond available resources to supply. Request officers for various duties shown in following list may be sent from U.K. as soon as possible. Necessary ratings can be found by reducing number to be drafted to U.K. except (a) Signal ratings, 20 required (b) 5 Writers, 5 required. The matter is urgent as maintenance of Army in Cyrenaica and its further operations depend entirely on the security of recently acquired ports, on their development to maximum capacity possible, and on their efficient organization. (C.in C. Med., 0003/11 to Admty).
URSULA TRIUMPH.	Your 0230/11. Proceed into harbour. TRIUMPH leaves Malta 1200/11 proceeding North West. (V.A.Malta, 0728/11 to URSULA, amended 1003/11).

MOST SECRET.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

WAR DIARY.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Coast Defences Cyrenaica.	Your 2100/10 to H.Q. Middle East. Concur. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal, 0938/11 to C.in C. Med.)
GLASGOW.	My 1215/26. Intend sailing GLASGOW for Suez 12/2. Request her future programme may be signalled. (C.in C. Med., 0951/11 to Admty). See East Indies, 1832/11.
Turkish Boom Equipment.	N.A. Ankara's 1226/28/1. Following position regards Mediterranean and Turkish boom equipment. (D.B.D. 1036/11 to C.in C. Med.).
Air Report.	Operational Summary 246 to 1200/11. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1156/11).
Suez Canal, Watching.	Admty. 1236/9. Plans and proposals for watching for parachute mines. (C.in C. Med., 1105/11 to Admty).
Prohibited area.	Submarines may proceed on the surface by day South of (?) 034° 00' and East of 020° 00' 10 miles normal precautions are in no way to be relaxed and attention is called against the necessity of maintaining an efficient zigzag both by day and by night. (Capt: (S) 1 1433/11).
Malta Air Raids.	Night 10/2. 3 enemy aircraft dropped bombs at Hal Far and Kalafrana others in sea no damage or casualties. 11/2. 1515, 4 enemy aircraft approached from S.W. crossed Island, 1600 2 JU. 88's 1 Ju 87 attacked Sunderland sub-station St. Paul's Bay without success. Petrol lighter in Bay slightly damaged but serviceable. Fighters on patrol unable to make contact. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1735/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

ILLUSTRIOUS. damage 10/1.

Your 1855/10. Hits as follows.
(Details of damage in dive bombing attacks on 10/1/41.
(ILLUSTRIOUS 1751/11 to Admty. Personal for Controller).
Original in Lion copy only.

Use of French Aircraft.

Your A.460 10/2 not to Malta. If practicable French Glenn Martin should proceed Malta for employment there.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E., 1751/11 to 200 Group).

Alexandria, Channel Clearance.

Admty. 1614/9/6/1940. (Two possible methods of keeping clear Channel Alexandria's Great Pass to boom, owing to shortage of magnetic minesweeping vessels. Consider scheme should be proceeded with. No material can be provided from local sources as reported in my 1437/18/6/40. Request simila installations to that fitted in Firth of Clyde may be sent urgently.
(C.in C. Med., 1045/11 to Admty).

Asdics for Greece.

Your 1950/30/1. Plan to equip 10 destroyers and 1 submarine with asdics. A.M's 1657/12/12 and 2359/23/12 and C.in C. Med's. 1855/31/1 refer. Request Greek port to which sets should be diverted.
(D.A/S W. 1850/11 to N.A.Athens).

Defence of Canal.

Further to my 0.506 8/2 and C.in C. Med's., 2333/7. Both Balloon Units and P.A.C. Unit intended for Malta will be diverted to canal zone. One additional unit each type required for Malta.
(H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1852/11 to Air Ministry).

Suez Canal Traffic.

Six ships including CHRISTIAN HUYGENS of 15000 tons held up by block in southern part of canal have arrived Suez. Intended to start traffic northwards Suez at daylight 12/2.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1901/11).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Enemy Ships at Para.	German and Italian merchant vessels at Para have raised steam. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2005Z/11). Ships present are German NORDERNEY, Italian MONBALDO. (D.S.526).

East Indies.

Operation "Composition".	My 0402/6. Operation COMPOSITION planned to take place night of 12/13th takes place probably just before dawn 13/2. (C.in C. E.I. 0430Z/11 to Admty).
Operation "Canvas".	Amending his 1500/7. (C.in C. E.I. 0432Z/11) See Operations Volume.
YAMA HUZI MARU.	My 0608/10. Copy of manifest now obtained. Being forwarded. (C.in C. E.I. 0516/Z/11 to Admty).
W.S.S.B.	My 1121/7. One day ahead of time. E.T.A. Aden and Suez. (C.in C. E.I. 0702Z/11). My 1141/6. R/V for Capetown and Durban portion and HAWKINS. (C.in C. E.I. 0756/11).
Convoy B.S.F.1½.	1500 G.M.T. 11/2. VACPORT Ballast, Abadan. EGRA Prisoners of war, Bombay. (S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1603/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.)

ADRIA
E. MAZZEZA
SAVOIA
MANON.

Capture by HAWKINS.
(C.in C. E.I. 1740Z/11, 1804/11, 0826Z/12).
See Italian Merchant Ships.

GLASGOW.

C.in C. Med., 0951/11. Hope I may keep GLASGOW. Increasingly difficult to meet demands for Ocean Escorts and give reasonable protection to shipping. Offensive operations such as "Canvas" can only be undertaken hurriedly between or at the expense of other commitments. No margin if break-down or casualties occur.
(C.in C. E.I. 1832Z/11 to Admty).

China.

Villiers
Net
Defence.

Your 0423Z/10. Tried in 1939 and 1940. Decided not to continue (reason)
(D. A/S W. 1337/11 to N.O.I.C. Hong Kong).

U.S.
Co-operation.

Your 0441/8. Signal publications prepared for possible co-operation with U.S. and intentions with regard to the Dutch. Proposed conference at Manilla.
(Head of M., 1909/11 to N.A. Washington).

America and West Indies.

DALEMOOR
BORGFRED.

N.C.S.O. Halifax, 0944/11. See Casualties and Defects.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies. (Contd.)

DIOMEDE. Leave patrol so as to arrive Valparaiso 14/2. Leave Valparaiso 15/2 and resume patrol off Talcahuano. Request N.A. Santiago De Chile give verbal notification to Chilean authorities. (C.in C. A.W.I. 1002/11 to DIOMEDE).

B.H.X.109. Bermuda departure, Ocean escort PRINCE DAVID, returning Bermuda (route) (dates). (C.in C. A.W.I. 1203/11 to Admty).

NEW NORTHLAND, HIGHLAND BRIGADE./9. C.in C. S.A. 1315N/8 and C.in C. A.W.I. 1722 Plans for embarkation of French volunteers for Freetown. (D.O.D.(F) 1545/11 to C.in C. A.W.I. and S.A.) See Operations Volume.

Australia.

AQUITANIA. My 0200Z/11. Request advice whether work on AQUITANIA can be taken in hand. Anticipate she would arrive Singapore (date). (A.C.N.B. 0230Z/11 to C.in C. China). Your 0230/11. Ship can be docked and a certain amount of (?boiler) attention given. (C.in C. China, 0901Z/11 to A.C.N.B. Melbourne).

QUEEN MARY. Most important that arrival of QUEEN MARY with reinforcements for Malaya shall not be delayed. (D.O.D.(F) 1332/11 to A.C.N.B.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PATAGONIA.	Reported in Emden at beginning of January. Was believed to have been mined in Baltic but owing to cargo of timber remained afloat and reached harbour. (C.2.) May have been the ship attacked by a Beaufort off Terschelling at 0800/27/11/40 and which was thought to have sunk. (D.S.526).
NORDERNEY.	At Para, has raised steam. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 2005Z/11. D.S.526).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CLIZIA.

(Tanker) Sailed from Gijon 9/2, destination unknown.
(V.A.N.P. 1248/11 to Western Patrol).
(F.O.(S) 1232/11 to TALISMAN, TIGRIS).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1741/11 to N.A. Station).
CLICIA arrived from Vigo 10/2 with about 3000 tons of petroleum on board.
(Consul, Bilbao, 1256/11 to D.N.I.)
My 1232. Ship has arrived Bilbao.
(F.O.(S) 1916/11 to TALISMAN, TIGRIS amended 0227/12).

GIOVANNI BOTIGLIERI.

Susak sailing 11/2, to Pola with cargo timber.
(Susak, 1930/11).

Capture of ADRIA, ERMINIA MAZZELA, SAVOIA.

HAWKINS captured ADRIA in position 001° 02'S., 043° 46'E., a.m. today, Tuesday.
ADRIA later intercepted ERMINIA MAZZELA. Both proceeding in company to Mombasa.
(C.in C. E.I. 1740Z/11 to Admty.
(Note: ADRIA, 3809 tons, at Kismayu since July, 1940, ERMINA MAZZELA, 5644 tons, left Liverpool for Colombo 5/6/40 refuging at Kismayu since July.)
My 1740/11. SAVOIA and MANON also captured.
(C.in C. E.I. 1804/11).
SAVOIA, 5490 tons, left Genoa for Colombo 6/6/40, refuging at Kismayu since July.
(D.S.526).
My 1804/11. Cancel reference to MANON. Ship was reported in error.
(C.in C. E.I.0226Z/12).

Schooners MONBALDO.

For auxiliary schooners captured off Libya. See Mediterranean, 9/2/41. At Para, has raised steam.
(S.O.(1) Montevideo, 2005Z/11 D.S.526).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS. (Contd.)

CONTE GRANDE.

S.O.(I) Montevideo 1436/10. Intercepted letter 13/12 from Italian Line, New York, to Head Office Genoa.
Standard Oil Co. refused supply of 1,000 tons fuel to CONTE GRANDE but under pressure instructed Caloric Co., Santos, supply 300 tons monthly required for auxiliary machinery. Italian Line continued to press for 1,000 tons at once, purpose suspected.
(S.O.(I) Freetown 1859/11 to Admty).

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

MENDOZA.

Your 1850/4 and S.of S's No.78 to O.A.G. Sierra Leone. Prize proceedings against MENDOZA and cargo now instituded. Request early instructions if ship to be requisitioned.
(C.in C. S.A. 1911N/11 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

JAMAICA PRODUCER.

0140.

The following has been read.
59.25 N., 07 W. attacked by submarine, being chased.
(Lyness W/T 0040/11).
Detach one destroyer to attack enemy submarine in position, reliably fixed 059° 25'N., 009° 07'W at 0140/11.
(C.in C. W.A. 0239/11 to BURNHAM).
Am proceeding to search for U/Boat chasing JAMAICA PRODUCER in position 059° 25' 009° 07' request Sunderland and JACKAL conform.
(Capt: D.5. 0309/11 to JACKAL, C.in C. Rosyth).
Your 0239. Am in position given. Nothing sighted yet.
(BURNHAM, 0503/11 to C.in C. W.A.)
Your 0239/11. Propose searching area until 1600 then proceeding to R/V H.X.106.
(BURNHAM, 1017/11 to C.in C. W.A.)
My 1936/11. JAMAICA PRODUCER reports attack by enemy S/M between 0040/11 and 0140/11 in 059° 25'N., 009° 07'W. Ship undamaged.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2227/11 to Admty).

Submarines Reported.

2218/10.

C.in C. H.F. 2218/10. (Sighting of submarine by NELSON). One Sunderland due submarine position 0900/11 ordered to make contact and obtain co-operation instructions.
If not met aircraft will carry out square search visibility distance 5 miles.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0100/11 to Capt: D.5.)
My 0100/11/2. Orders for Sunderland altered in accordance with your 0309/11.
(C.in C. Rosyth 0456/11 to D.5.)
Request Air co-operation for D.5. may be continued during tonight.
(C.in C. H.F. 1559/11 to C.in C. Rosyth).
Your 2325/10. have searched vicinity of this position since 1330 but have not made contact with Capt: D.5. Intend proceeding to Skable Fiord at dark to fuel as only 33% now remaining.
(JACKAL, 1700/11 to R.A.D.H.F.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.2.1941.
Tuesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Your 1559/11. Regret owing to weather conditions not considered practicable to continue aircraft co-operation tonight.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1834/11 to C.in C. H.F.)
One Sunderland A/C will co-operate with D.5. tomorrow 12/2 from 1000 approx.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2140/11 to C.in C. H.F.)
My 2140/11. A/C will R/V with Capt: D.5. at dawn.
(C.in C. Rosyth 2318/11 to C.in C. H.F.)

0120. Admiralty Message A/F.
59° 25'N., 9° 7'W. at 0120/11. G.M.T.
(D.D.I.C. 0326/11 to G.B.M.S. Area 1).

0336. By D/F at 0336/11 position of U/Boat was 52° - 53° N. 20° - 23° W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 0425/11).

1237. D/F at 1237 B.S.T. position of enemy unit probably U/B approximately 56° N., 18° 30'W. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1341/11 to BIRMINGHAM, C.in C. W.A 1407/11).

Odd Submarines Reported.

1437. About 54° N., 14° - 16° W. indefinite position.
(D.S.526).

1757. About 57° N., 24° W. indefinite position.
(D.S.526).

2136. About 37° N., 20° W. indefinite position.
(D.S.526).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

11.3.1941.
Tuesday.

U/BOAT CAMPAIGN.

A/S Sweep.

My 0130 not to OTTAWA. Have not made definite contact. Gyro Compass defective D/G Wire out, deviation very uncertain. Intend proceed East of position approx. 316 G.J.B.M. 26 759 4 - 515 366 - 200 7.
(BROADWATER 1130/11 to C.in C. W.A.)
Destroyer escort continue to prudent limits of endurance then proceed as follows (ii) NAPIER, NIZAM to Scapa passing North of Rockall. (iii) KEPPEL, COTTESMORE, ATHERSTONE to Londonderry (iv) OTTAWA ST. LAURENT, RESTIGOUCHE SKEENA through area 52° to 53° N., 20° to 23° W. thence to Greenock through position 53° N., 15° W. (v) LEGION BROADWATER ORP GARLAND PIORUN through position 57° N., 19° W. thence to Greenock passing north of Rockall (vi) Each group carry A/S sweep through most probable U/Boat positions (vii) Each group report p.c. and s when well clear of convoy. (C.in C. W.A. 1207/11 to BIRMINGHAM).

Estimated U/Boat Dispositions.

GERMAN.

1 40 miles of 60° 57'N., 12° 37' W.
1 30 miles of 59° 25'N., 9° 07'W.
1 in 54° 21'N., 15° 50'W. 1447/10.
1 40 miles of 56° 20'N., 19° W.
1 52° N.; 53° N., 21° W., - 23° W.
1 possibly North of 58° N., 18° W. - 23° W.
1 possibly 51° N.; 53° N., West of 30° W.
1 about 57° 18° W.

ITALIAN OR GERMAN.

1 in 56° 30'N., 14° 38'W. at 1647/10. possibly ineffective.

ITALIAN.

1 or 2 in N.W.Approaches.
(D.D.I.C. 1255/11).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Western Channel Patrol.

There were indications of E. boats operating in the Channel tonight, and at 2227 all available M.G.B's from Fowey and M.L's from Dartmouth were ordered to proceed to patrol in the western part of the Channel.

Convoys affected by weather.

H.X.104 was 50 hours late at R.V. Heavy weather was encountered. B.H.X. 104 was 24 hours late. Only 22 ships of H.X.105 arrived at R.V. on time; straggling took place immediately after sailing in a blizzard followed by fog. In each case, all ships have now reported.

Use of lethal gas.

Warning has again been issued by the Admiralty that there are indications that the enemy may employ gas.

Ramsgate shelled.

Between 1230 and 1245 today explosions occurred in Ramsgate assumed to be shells. No whistling sound or other warning was heard, though a dull distant boom was heard some 5 or 6 seconds after the second of the 3 salvoes.

E. boat.

A speed boat was reported off Yarmouth late tonight, and motor engines were heard off Caistor.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Bomber Command aircraft attacked the Focke Wulf Aircraft Factory and other targets at Bremen last night. The petroleum harbour at Rotterdam and docks at Wilhelmshaven were other naval targets attacked. Out of a total of 109 aircraft despatched 22 crashed in U.K., on return in fog, though only 5 personnel were killed and 2 injured.
5 Coastal Command aircraft are missing from operations last night and today.
One Hudson bombed the seaplane base at Thisted (Denmark) last night.
Patrols today were curtailed by bad weather and all operations for tonight were cancelled.

Enemy Air Activity.

A/P Drifter EAGER reports that she destroyed a Ju.88 which attacked her in the Thames Estuary this afternoon. EAGER was slightly damaged by machine gun and cannon fire.
BANGOR (9th M/S.F.) was unsuccessfully bombed today off the Moray Firth and trawler STRATHLYON 10 to 12 miles S.E. by S. from Bard Head, Bressay. The wreck of the BARON MINTO (aground and abandoned 30/10/40) was bombed and machine gunned at Rattray Head.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Two Beauforts last night laid mines in Hubert Gat.

Operation Z.M.E.16.

PLOVER laid mines last night off the Bristol Channel.

Enemy minelaying.

An acoustic mine was detonated off Yarmouth harbour entrance this morning and the port was closed to vessels with I.C. engines. Sweeping at the Humber was delayed by fog and the port remained closed. Six mines were exploded.
Operation B.S.51 was consequently postponed, owing to the inability of R.A.M.L. to sail.
Mines were destroyed off Iceland and the area to North and East of a line from Sulisker Rock to Vestrahorn is dangerous.
Mines were detonated in the Thames Estuary.

North Atlantic.

Attack on Convoy S.L.S.64.

A German raider today attacked Convoy S.L.S.64 in 37° 12' N. 21° 20' W. (about 200 miles east of the Azores). At 1035 G.M.T. S.S. POTARO reported that the convoy was being shelled and "several ships" had been sunk or were sinking. At 1227 G.M.T. Funchal W/T intercepted a wireless message from S.S. MARGOT reporting that the convoy was being shelled. A German communique states that "warships" carried out the attack and that 13 ships were sunk.
There were 19 ships in the Convoy.

/ Force H at ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic. (Contd.)

Attack on Convoy S.L.S.64. (Contd.)

Force H at Gibraltar was ordered to raise steam; SHEFFIELD and some destroyers are to rescue Convoy S.L.S.64 and then to cover H.G.53 which is near S.L.S.64, and RENOWN and ARK ROYAL to R.V. with Convoy W.S.6 from the U.K. which is to be joined by RODNEY as soon as possible until relieved by S.O. Force H. FAULKNOR and FORESTER are to come up to Gibraltar from Freetown. Four O.B.V's were ordered to search for survivors of Convoy S.L.S. 64. DEPTFORD (escorting Convoy H.G.53) was ordered to steer to the north eastward until dark, unless he considered any other course desirable.
KENYA on the way home to U.K. after escorting Force Z to Freetown yesterday morning, is to join BULOLO and escort Convoy S.L.65 to U.K., both portions of this convoy being joined up with one.

A.M.C's CORINTHIAN, CAVINA, CAMITO and MARON on Western Patrol were ordered to proceed towards the Azores. TUNA on patrol off Ponta Delgada is to proceed to Gibraltar, and will probably be employed to escort a convoy to U.K.
Approx. positions at 1200/13 of convoys in or near the area are:-
H.G. 53 39° 30' N. 20° 30' W.
S.L. 64 43° 30' N. 23° 00' W. (Escort ARAWA)
O.G. 52 48° 20' N. 22° 0' W.

It is now reported that a third ship, BRANDENBURG was sunk when Convoy H.G.53 was attacked on the morning of 9/2.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations.

R.A.F. last night again bombed the aerodromes at Rhodes. These repeated attacks are intended to prevent the German dive bombers from establishing themselves.

Comiso and Catania were also successfully attacked. An attack was made on Malta, but all bombs fell in the sea.

Ships began to pass through the Suez Canal today in both directions, though with some delay, the largest ship being one of 15000 tons.

Mersa Tobruk and the Gulf of Sollum are open though not yet safe.

East Indies.

Capture of enemy ships off Kismayu.

It is now reported that two further Italian ships MANON and LEONARDO DE VINCI have been captured off Kismayu. The German UCKERMARK was intercepted and attempted to scuttle herself; (sank 14/2) and 37 prisoners from the ship are being sent to Mombasa with LEONARDO DA VINCI.
At 0645Z today 4 ships were steering north from the coast, and end ~~carrier~~ eavour is being made to round them up. 4 ships are reported to be still in Kismayu. CERES's maximum speed is reduced to 22 knots by boiler defect.

China.

Owing to the deterioration of the situation with Japan C.in C. China has taken certain steps to safeguard shipping.

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MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

American ammunition.

E.T.A. Number 1740.
Have on board full outfit of Q.F. ammunition 18 American depth charges 6 American torpedoes.
Is it intended .5 A.A. ammunition be retained (corrupt group) for emergency use during refit?
(NEWMARKET 1125/12 to N.O.I.C. Number).

Warning re use of gas by enemy.

In view of indications that enemy may employ gas (vide my 1829/24/1) all A/G organisations, training, and preparations should be maintained at a high state of efficiency.
Experts will be employed in visiting H.M.Ships and outlying Naval Shore Estabs. to assist and advise on A/G training and organisation.
(Head of C.W. 2035/12).

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE.

At 1130/12. (D.C. 1146/12) At 2330/12 (D.C. 0003/13).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

ST. APOLLO. (A/S) Trawler) 0500 sailed to R/V 000° 8 miles from Altacarry at 1020/12. 0815/12.

SNAPPER. SNAPPER not yet arrived rendezvous. Surface visibility four miles. (LA CAPRICIEUSE 1015/12).
Your 1015/12. If SNAPPER not already in company be at rendezvous at 0815 to-morrow. (S.2. 1833/12 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).
Your 1015. Remain at R/V until ordered to contrary by Capt. S.2. (C.in C. W.A. 2115/12 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).

L.26. Subject to replacement of gun being satisfactorily completed L 26 is to sail from Rosyth 0800/13 for Dundee and proceed unescorted on surface (except in emergency) to arrive Buddon Ness at 1600/13. Route. (C.in C. Rosyth 1145/12).

O. 23. Passed Bell Rock 1630/12 routed for patrol about 15 miles West of Kors Fiord. (S.9. 1401/12 to S/M's Area A).

Northern Patrol. Trawler line tonight. 4 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/12).

WRESTLER. Your 1657/11.
WRESTLER should be sailed to Plymouth when ready. After fuelling there she should be sailed as soon as convenient to Gibraltar. (D.O.D.H. 1624/12).

6th M/S.F. Adty. 2003/10. Para. 3. (To sail for) Scapa. (C.in C. H.F. 1640/12).

NEWMARKET. Remain at Humber L.V. until further orders. (N.O.I.C. Humber 1705/12 to NEWMARKET)
Am vicinity Humber Light Vessel. Have only 25 tons fuel remaining. (NEWMARKET 1830/12 to N.O.I.C. Humber).
Your 1830. Hope to open Humber noon /13. Fighter cover has been requested for you. Give what protection you can to ships anchored at Humber L.V. (N.O.I.C. Humber 2236/12 to NEWMARKET).

S/M's. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

S/M's.	Positions at 0800/13 and movements for following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1902/12 and 2038/12).
C.S.2.	C.S.2 Force is approaching Scapa from westward now. (A.C.O.S. 1935/12 to RODNEY).
URGE MINERVE STURGEON O.23.	Movements. Submarines are not to be attacked unless their hostile identity is established. (F.O.S. 2101/12 to S/M's Area A).

Operations.

Ramsgate shelled.	Between 1230 and 1245 today explosions occurred in Ramsgate assumed to be shells and salvoes as follows. 1230 one in Whitehall Road, 1239 one in harbour, 1245 one in Wilfred Road. No whistling sound or other warning and approximately 5 or 6 seconds after the 1239 salvo a dull distant boom was heard from seaward. 5 houses damaged but no casualties. R.A.F. H.S.L 101 and 120 received superficial damage and various fragments of shell have been picked up including large pieces of side and base. (N.O.I.C. Ramsgate 1603/12).

/ E-Boats in ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

E-Boats in Western Channel.

Indications of E Boats operating in the Channel tonight. All available M.G.B's from Fowey are to proceed as soon as possible and patrol between 50°N. 4°W. and 49° 45' N. 05° 15' W. All available M.L's from Dartmouth are to proceed as soon as possible to patrol between 50° 10' N. 3° W. and 50° N. 03° 45' W. (C.in C. W.A. 2227/12).

S/M Patrols Area A.

Object of submarines on patrol is now that given in F.S.B. One.
(F.O.S. 2242/12 to S/M's Area A).

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

My 2314/11 which refers to my 1931/10. First sortie of patrol FUGLE by one Sunderland and one Whitley cancelled owing to weather. (C.in C. Rosyth 0306/12).

Your 1936/8 and my 2031/11. LARCH Patrol as set out in my 0149/9 will leave 0830 if the weather suitable.
(F.C.I.C. Iceland 0448/12).

Patrol UNST and Trondheim reconnaissance now in operation. (C.in C. Rosyth 0900/12).

Your 1936/8 and my 0448/12. G.O.C. informs me patrol will not be flown today owing to bad weather. (F.O. Iceland 0913/12).

/ 0.562 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

0.562. Your 51267 (M.O.8) 12/2.
Patrol not sent out today owing to heavy thaw having rendered aerodrome unserviceable. (C.C. F.O.I.C. Iceland 0945/12 to War Office).

51336 Cipher M.O. 8. 12/2.
Re 50820 (M.O. 8) 8/2.
Coastal Command require no further patrols after today.
(War Office 1620/12 to G.O.C. Iceland).

Your 1936/8. Assumed no further A/C patrols are being made at present.
(F.O. Iceland 2146/12 to Adty.).

A/C to R/V with Capt. D.5. My 2318/11. A/C cannot take off before 0900. (C.in C. Rosyth 0624/12 to D.5).

A/C fired on by vessel on 10/1. FO 6 X 914 12/2.
Without prejudice to current or subsequent action request you submit any information available concerning Wellington one CT 2460 149 Squadron which was fired at by surface vessel over Thames Estuary at 0130/10/1. (Air Ministry 1733/12 to H.Q.B.C.).

Belfast and Liverpool Night Artillery Zones. X.880. Night Artillery Zones at Belfast and Liverpool as laid down in Air Min. Signal X.63 21/11 and para. 4 of Appendix F to S.D.158(2) respectively are to remain in force until new regulations for opening of fire come into force at 1200 hours B.S.T./15. (Air Ministry FO.6. 1814/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity.

EAMONT
ARNOLD BENNETT
CANTICK HEAD
JOHN DUNKIN
attacked 11/2.

Following Air Attacks have been reported
(1) Fleetwood Trawler EAMONT bombed 3 miles off Dunbeath (58° 15' N. 03° 26' W.) at 2000/11 three bombs dropped two exploded alongside one unexploded in wheelhouse. Vessel now anchored crew of ten landed at Helmsdale by patrol craft HARMONY.
(2) A/P trawler ARNOLD BENNETT machine gunned 10 miles north of Lossiemouth at 2015/11.
(3) S.S. CANTICK HEAD bound Kirkwall to Leith in ballast machine gunned 30 miles NW of Kinnaird Head at 2030/11 master wounded no other casualties. Vessel now at Fraserburgh two bombs dropped by same aircraft about 2 miles from ship apparently aimed at 2 trawlers.
(4) Trawler JOHN DUNKIN bombed 13 miles N. by E. of Buckie at 2100/11 now a derelict may have sunk. Trawler WHITE-EAR started to tow having picked up 8 of crew (onge? engineer missing) but slipped tow on being machine gunned and entered Buckie with casualties. (C.in C. Rosyth 0525/12).

EAMONT.

Patrol Vessel HARMONY reports landed ten survivors of EAMONT at Helmsdale at 2000. 2 miles off Dunbeath German Bomber dropped three bombs on trawler, one direct on wheelhouse still unexploded in wheelhouse, two exploded alongside. Trawler anchored, 24 fathoms. Fishing craft in Lybster told not to go near her.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 2237/12).

BARON RENFREW
(bombed 28/1).

Not yet commenced pumping. Attempted yesterday but was forced to leave.
RENFREW listed on and (damaged) TENACITY.
Not much hope for today.
Dangerous to be alongside RENFREW.
(TENACITY 0711/12).
TENACITY to return Greenock. SCHELDE to stand by and attempt to pump out BARON RENFREW when weather moderates.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1142/12).
My 1142/12. If you arrive off Campbeltown after 0900 tomorrow proceed into Campbeltown.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 1450/12 to TENACITY).

/ BANGOR ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.).

BANGOR. (9th M/S Flotilla). Have been bombed. No damage. W/T out of action. My position 056° 10' N. 002° 40' W. (BANGOR 1105/12).

STRATHLYON. N.O.I.C. Lerwick reports:- Trawler STRATHLYON whilst fishing 10 to 12 miles S.E. by S. from Bard Head Bressay was attacked at 1100 today by an aircraft thought to be a Heinkel which attacked from ahead raked it fore and aft with machine gun fire and dropped two bombs which fell a ships length astern. Coming round again the enemy A/C again machine gunned the vessel and made off. No hits or casualties on either occasion. Ends. (A.C.O.S. 1725/12).

BARON MINTO. Enemy A/C bombing and machine gunning the wreck of BARON MINTO at Rattray Head at 1845. (C.in C. Rosyth 2019/12).

IOANNIS N. EMBIRICOS (Bombed 5/2). Arrived PICOTEE with 4 survivors from J M EMBIRICOS. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 2108/12).

EAGER. (A/P Drifter) destroyers a/c. N.O.I.C. Brightlingsea reports 1937/12 that EAGER reports having destroyed J.U.88 near B.7 buoy. at 1430. No survivors, vessel slightly damaged by bullets and cannon. One soldier wounded landed Clacton Hospital. (C.in C. Nore 2243/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining.

Z.M.E.16.	Operation completed. (PLOVER 0320/12).
Rosyth Command Mines and Floats dealt with.	Following mines and anti-sweeping explosive floats have been washed ashore or dealt with at sea in this Command from 4/2 to 11/2 inclusive. (C.in C. Rosyth 1049/12).
Milford Haven.	F.O.I.C. Milford Haven's 1231/10. My 1937/24 is still in force. (C.in C. W.A. 1137/12).
Yarmouth.	At 1010/12 one Acoustic Mine detonated 400 yards N.E. of Harbour Entrance. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1147/12). Until further orders the Port of Yarmouth is closed to vessels with internal combustion engines. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1149/12).
Humber.	Sweeping delayed by fog. Anticipate Humber will be open to navigation at 1200/13. (F.O. Humber 1214/12).
Campbeltown.	My 2344/9. Port will be opened at 0900/13. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1224/12).
B.S.51.	Sailing is postponed till tomorrow on account of Humber being closed to navigation. All times in my 1135/10 to be 48 hours later accordingly. (S.O. M/L. Immingham 1325/12).
Iceland.	My 1859/8. One 827 Mark XX mine rendered safe at Engjanes 066° 08' N. 021° 45' W. (GYYT) NORTHERN ISLES sunk British mine A.M./9 in 063° 24' N. 015° 12' W. Another sunk P.M. yesterday by local naval craft in 066° 12' N. 018° 50' W. (F.O.I.C. Iceland 1430/12).

/ Area to North ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Area to North and east of line from Sulisker Rock to Vestrahorn (Iceland) is dangerous.
(C.in C. W.A. 1609/12 to ARROW for H.X.107).

Humber Portection against Minelaying.

Your 2353/10.
Director of Local Defence is being sent to obtain your views so that all possible improvements in existing arrangements can be made.
He will arrive Immingham by road A.M. tomorrow, Wednesday. (A.C.N.S. H. 1520/11 to F.O.I.C. Humber).

Thames Estuary.

At 1137/12/2, one Mine detonated by S.A. Gear in 186° Yantlet North Buoy 1/2 Cable. (Capt M/S. Sheerness 1540/12).
One red mine detonated by L L Sweepers at 1520/12, 039° No. 2 Sea Reach Buoy 3.7 cables. (Capt. M/S Sheerness 1750/12).

Operation Z.M.E.17.

Particulars. To be carried out on Night 14/2 or soon after. (A.C.N.S. H. 1628/12 to C.in C. W.A., PLOVER) See Operations Volume.

11th M/S.F.

My 1847/23/1/41. 11th M.S.F. is to be sailed as ordered therein as soon as possible, further operations being abandoned. (V.C.N.S. 1650/12).

Spurn Point.

The following six mines exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1755/12).

Littlehampton.

Admiralty Letter T.O. 6375/40 of 2/12/40. Observation minefield at Littlehampton is laid and ready to operate.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1757/12).

5th M/S.F.

Arrived. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1815/12).

F.D.30. (Operation by CACHALOT)

CACHALOT is to proceed now to carry out Lay given in my 1241/11 para B.

/ Number of operation ..

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

F.D.30. (Operation by CACHALOT) (Contd.).

Number of operation to be F.D.30. (F.O.S. 1934/12).
Proceed now and carry out lay in position close south west of Flatoy (67 deg. 55' North, 14 deg. 46' East).
(S.2. 2221/12 to CACHALOT).

Enemy Intelligence.

Speed boat.

Following reports received during night 11/12.2155 military on Wellington Pier Yarmouth, speed boat moving Southwards.
2156 Coast guards at Caistor, motor engines heard N.E. of station.
2233 Coast guards Caistor report motor boat engines last heard at 2230 East of station.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1147/12).

Indication of possible E Boat bearing 295° from 5 Buoy at 2240.
(C.in C. Nore 2251/12).

E.Boat.

At 0415/11 and 0720/12 a fast Motor Boat reported by Inshore Patrol Craft 4 miles S.S.W. of Hengistbury Head. (D.S. 527).

Technical.

Fitting of R D/F to destroyers.

D.S.D. 1545/12 see Operations Volume.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Military Convoys.

W.S.6. A Capital ship is required to proceed immediately to escort convoy W.S.6 which will probably be turned temporarily to Northward.
Force H will subsequently take over escort. (1st S.L. 1402/12 to C.in C. H.F.).
Convoy to be turned as follows. Route till 0900/16, when RODNEY to be relieved by Force H. Route thereafter. (1st S.L. 1909/12).
See Operations Volume.

Coastal Convoys.

E.N.71)
W.N.84.) GLEANER additional A/A escort. (C.in C. Rosyth 0902/12).

O.B.O.285.
O.B.C.285. Sailed, escort DANEMAN, 1 ship. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0905/12). List and destinations (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1200/12).

W.N.84. List. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 0951/12). Sailed (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 1515/12). May cross H.G.52(O) (C.in C. W.A., 1825/12).

F.N.4. Arrived (N.C.S.O. Methil 0954/12) Tyne ships arrived (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1014/12) Escort arrived (C.in C. Rosyth, 2303/12).

F.S.9. 33 ships. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0958/12).

F.S.7. Wash ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Humber, 1001/12).

/ E.N. 71. ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)

E.N.71. Programme, numbers, codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1027/12).

F.S.8. Position, thick fog. (SOUTHDOWN, 1240/12) Proceeded. (SOUTHDOWN, 1445/12) Directions (C.in C. Nore, 1850/12 to SOUTHDOWN) (C.in C. Nore 2058/12 to GARTH, SOUTHDOWN, etc.)

F.N.6. 1115/12, 13 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1319/12) List (1508/12).

E.N.69. All four ships arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1410/12).

F.S.10. Sailed. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1545/12) List (1552/12) List and destinations (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1613/12). Escort. (C.in C. Rosyth, 2303/12).

F.N.7. List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1626/12).

C.E.24. Escort vessels, and number. (C.in C. Portsmouth, 1743/12 amended 2132/12).

F.N.5. Position (VERDUN, 1802/12).

W.N.U.83. Sailed unescorted, 1 ship (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1841/12, 1845/12).

O.B.U.285. Sailed unescorted, 26 ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1843/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Ocean Convoys.

O.G.53.	VULCAN to join. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool 1034/12).
H.X.106.	Not met. (MALCOLM, 1246/12, BURNHAM, 1410/12) Destinations (D.T.D., 1507/12, 1509/12) SALADIN and SKATE detached from search. (MALCOLM, 1557/12) SALADIN and SKATE to rejoin H.X.106. (C.in C. W.A., 2219/12).
H.X.104.	50 hours late at R.V. Heavy weather. (D.T.D., 1636/12).
B.H.X.104.	24 hours late at R.V. Heavy weather. (D.T.D. 1637/12).
H.X.105.	On time at R.V. (D.T.D. 1638/12).
S.C.21.	Altered destinations. (D.T.D., 1640/12).
H.G.52(O)	May cross W.N.84 (C.in C. W.A. 1825/12).
H.G.54.	Destinations (D.T.D.,1857/12).
H.G.51.	Lisbon requests information whether Swedish Ships GARM NORITA and TABERG, Ex H.G.51, have arrived U.K. safely. This in order to combat German propaganda which is unsettling Scandinavian crews. Routine reports of H.G. arrivals would be appreciated. (F.O.C.N.A. 1704/12 to Admty.).
H.G. bunkers.	My 2014/10. Min. of Shipping agree that if this results in slight submersion of winter load line of any ships no objection need be taken. (D.T.D. 2050/12 to F.O.C.N.A.).

MOST SECRET.

12. 2. 41.
Wednesday.

War Diary.

CASUALTIES/DEFECTS.

EDINA.	(British, 489 Tons). My 2005/11. Returned Aberdeen owing to engine trouble. (N.C.S.O. Aberdeen 0654/12.)
STANFORTH. (Grounded 11/2.)	Your 1327/11. STANFORTH in 051° 44' N, 001° 24' E. proceeding to Southend. No serious damage. (VALOROUS 0745/12. to C. in C. Nore.)
BORRAS.	Take BORRAS in tow. BANDIT will meet you off Cantick Head. (F.O.C.D.F.H.F. 1232/12, to KIPLING.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy attacked by Raider.

Convoy S.L.S. 64, consisting of 19 ships (12 British, 3 Norwegian, 4 Greek) was attacked at 1135/12 in 37.12 N., 21.20 W. (between Lisbon and the Azores about 200 miles E. of Azores)
For sailing telegram of S.L.S. 64 see N.C.S.O. Freetown 1718/30/1.

Report from POTARO. — Raider Signal. 1035 G.M.T. 37. 12 N., 21.20 W Convoy shelled, several ships sunk or sinking (S.S. POTARO via Lyness W/T, T.O.R. 1146/12) (POTARO, British 5410 tons).

Report from MARGOT — Received by Funchal W/T 1227/12 G.M.T. RRRR 037° 10'N. 021° 20'W. British MARGOT (4545 tons) shelled, also others in convoy. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1146/12 to S.O.I. Gibraltar) (D.S.O. T.O.R. 1227Z/12 to Ships in Area B. N. Atlantic and S. Atlantic)

TUNA orders. — Raider reported attacking convoy in position 037° 12'N. 021° 20'W. at 1035 G.M.T/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1212/12 to TUNA) (On patrol off Ponta Delgada).
German raider attacking convoy in position 37° 12'N. 21° 20'W. at 1035/12. Close vicinity with despatch. RENOWN and ARK ROYAL at present at Gibraltar will leave shortly to attack.
(F.O.(S) 1221/12 to TUNA) Repeated to C. in C. S.A. and KENYA (F.O.(S) 1341/12) 1221/12 cancelled see 1922/12.

KENYA. — Increase speed.
(D.C. 1235/12 to KENYA) Cancelled see 1740/12.

Force H. — Proceed to assistance of Convoy H.G.53.
(V.C.N.S. 1240/12 to S.O. Force H).
Ref. Raider report Force "H" ready to proceed 1630.
(S.O. Force H. 1245/12 to Admty).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

Convoy attacked by Raider.

Force H. (contd).	My 1245/12. Owing to oiling delay caused by listing RENOWN to examine bulge and changing unsatisfactory oil in ARK ROYAL, amend time of departure to 1730. Your 1240/12. Intend to make contact with H.G. 53 a.m./14 retaining Destroyers only if weather is suitable. (S.O. Force H., 1656/12 to Admty).
CORINTHIAN. CAVINA. CAMITO. MARON.	Proceed towards the Azores. (V.C.N.S. 1247/12).
Orders to DEPTFORD. (H.G. 53).	Ref. Raider Signal T.O.R. 1146 from MOPN. It is believed convoy referred to is S.L.S. 64 in 37° 12'N. 21° 20'W. Force H. is proceeding to your assistance. Steer to N.E. till dark unless you consider any other course preferable. (V.C.N.S. 1302/12 to DEPTFORD).
TUNA.	S/M position 0800/13 TUNA from Ponta Delgada in approx 037° 15'N. 022° 30'W. proceeding on surface to vicinity of 037°12'N. 021° 20'W. (F.O.C.N.A. 1620/12 to N.A. Station).
KENYA. to escort, S.L. 65.	Cancel my 1235/12. KENYA is to join BULOLO and escort S.L. 65 to U.K. Both portion of S.L. 65 are to be joined into one convoy. (D.O.D.(F) (Approved by A.C.N.S.(T)) 1740/12 to C.S.10, C. in C. S.A KENYA, BULOLO).
CAMITO CORINTHIAN. CAVINA. MARON.	My 1247/12. Proceed to position 37° 12'N. 21° 20'W. to search for survivors of S.L.S. 64 attacked by surface raider. Every possible assistance should be given to damaged ships, and condition reported. (D.O.D.(F), 1801/12 to CAMITO, etc).
Force H. leaves Gib.	Gibraltar 12/2 1800, departure S.O. Force H in RENOWN, ARK ROYAL, SHEFFIELD, FOXHOUND, FURY, FIREDRAKE, JERSEY WISHART in accordance with Adty's 1240/12. (F.O.C.N.A. 1806/12).

/TUNA.....

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

TUNA ordered to Gib.

Cancel my 1221/12. TUNA proceed direct to Gibraltar with despatch. F.O.C.N.A. requested to order route.
(F.O.(S) 1922/12 to TUNA).

Situation as regards convoys.

A.(I) S.L. Slow 64 attacked by Raider in 37° 12'N. 21° 20'W. Some ships sunk, convoy probably dispersed.
(2) Four O.B.Vs (CAMITO etc) have been ordered to search for survivors.
(3) Approx. position of H.G. 53 noon/13, 39° 30'N. 20° 30'W.
(4) S.L. 64 escorted by ARAWA, approx. position noon/13 45° 30'N. 23° 30'W. (Amended see 1358/13).
(5) O.G. 52 approx. position noon/13. 48° 20'N. 22° 00'W.

B. (1) RENOWN and ARK ROYAL are to R.V. with W.S.6. in 50° 30'N. 31° 00'W. at 0900/16
(2) SHEFFIELD and some destroyers are to be detached to the rescue of S.L.S. 64 and then to cover H.G. 53.
(3) Unless you require MALAYA she should return to Gibraltar.

G. TUNA ordered to Gibraltar.
(D.O.D. (F) 2014/12 to F.O. Force H).

Destroyers.

My 2014/2. Any destroyers you do not require should return to Gibraltar to facilitate the following sailings (A) RESOLUTION (B) IRIS and ENCOUNTER (C) SHRAPNEL Force.
(D.O.D. (F) 2015/12 to S.O. Force H).

KENYA.

A.M. 1740/12 KENYA will meet S.L.S. 65 at 2330/12 and escort to join S.L. 65 Combined convoy will follow route of S.L. 65.
(C.S.10 2022N/12 to C. in C. S.A).
A.M. 1740/12. Date when KENYA will have to leave convoy to refuel.
(C.S.10, 2023/12 to Admty).

/S.L.65.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic. (contd).

S.L.65.

Admty. 1740/12. Convoy S.L.S. 65, 15 ships Cmdre. in DEIDO instructed to R.V.with SL 65 in 015° 20'N. 020° 33'W. At 1000 Z (+) one. 14/2. Both convoys will then proceed as one convoy by route for SL 65. S.L. 65 should pass through R.V. on course 349° SLS 65 should have passed through 010° 49'N, 019° 10'W. at approx 1800 zone (+) one 12/2 course 350° speed of advance 7 knots. BULOLO pass to Cmdre. SL 65. KENYA provides cover for S.L.S. 65 until Junction is made.
(C. in C. S.A. 2043N/12 to KENYA, BULOLO, F.O. 10 C.S).

FAULKNOR and FORESTER.

Should be sailed for Gibraltar as soon as available. Two Vess referred to in A.T. 0138/2 para D. should be sailed in time to escort W.S.6. into Freetown.
(D.O.D.(F) 2125/12 to C. in C S.A. F.O.C.N.A)

TUNA.
H.G. 54.

TUNA has been ordered to Gibraltar to fuel and is subsequently to escort H.G. 54. Sailing of convoy may have to be delayed to await TUNA. F.O.C.N.A. to retain operational control of TUNA until she leaves N.A. station.
(D.O.D. (H) 2322/12 to F.O.C.N.A.)
1. F.O.S. 1922/12. Pass through following positions (a) 034° 00'N. 010° 00'W. (b) 035 45'N. 006 20'W. Report e.t.a. in position. (b) 24 hours in advance. Adjust speed to pass Straits of Gibraltar during daylight.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2342/12 to TUNA) Informing North Atlantic of route.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2358/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

QUEEN OF BERMUDA.

Suggests THORSHAMMER might proceed to Ice to work there and ADMIRAL LATTER bring him at least 500 tons of oil fuel and up to 1000 tons of fresh water. Request instructions. (N.O.I.C. Falklands 0117Z/12 to Admty C.in.C S.A. R.A.S.A.D).

CLEODORA.

Overdue shipping. Dutch Tanker CLEODORA due Freetown 8/2 from Trinidad departure 26/1 has not arrived. (S.O.I. Freetown 0928/12).

Reserve Aircraft.

My 1621/7 para 2 (e) add 2 Walrus. (D.N.A.D. 1543/12 to C. in C.'s S.A. E.I. China).

W.S.6.
W.S.6.B.

Your 1335/11/2. Margin for W.S.6B overtaking W.S.6. is small and once W.S.6. is complete with water very undesirable to keep ships at Freetown. Possible that it will be necessary tosail W.S.6. before W.S.6B from Freetown though if everything goes according to plan, including arrival of water, this should not happen. (C. in C. S.A. 1611N/12 to Admty).

KENYA.

C. in C. S.A.'s 2021N/10. From position (c) KENYA is to proceed through (d) 049° 30'N. 10° 00' W. Time of arrival Plymouth to be 1000 and ship to proceed at best speed during night before arrival. (C. in C. W.A. 1613/12 to F.O.10. C.S) (Note:- For later instructions to KENYA see Raider Attack on Convoy).

PORT BINGER.

Point Noire reports French sloop COMMANDANT DUBOC and armed trawler PRESIDENT HOUDOUCE escorting French ship PORT BINGER sailed 11/2 for Capetown direct six knots. C. in C. S.A. 1409/9 refers. (S.O.I. Freetown 1701N/12 to Admty etc).

/Italian.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (contd).

Italian Troopship.	Telegram (? received) states large Italian military troopship leaves Sal 13/2 (?for) north, time of departure not known. (British Consul (Via Freetown W/T) 1745/12 to F.O.C.N.A).
QUEEN OF BERMUDA.	QUEEN OF BERMUDA 1203/5 is being passed to you. QUEEN OF BERMUDA position on 5/2 was 064° 30' S. 048° 30'W. with whale factory SOUTHERN EMPRESS and SVEND FOYN in company. (C. in C. S. 1801N/12 to Admty).
Navigation Lights.	Your 0658/3/2. I concur with N.O.I.C. Simonstown. (C. in C. S.A. 1714/12 to C. in C. E.I).
CUBA.	My 1409/9. Expected to sail from Freetown 15/2 for Lagos and Takoradi to embark British W. African Troops. Date E.T.A. Lagos and Freetown. (C. in C. S.A., 2041/12 to D. of S.T).
BULOLO S.L. 65.	Your 1625/7 (BULOLO to escort S.L. 65 to Greenock) No objection to proposed arrangements If vessel can be berthed alongside wood ballast will be removed, but replacement by steel drums cannot be undertaken. (D.O.D.(F) 2354/12 to C. in C.S.A).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean.

Air Report.

3 Swordfish 830 Sqn. F.A.A. carried out anti-ship patrol round Sicily and S.E. Italy. No ships seen. No opposition. Night February 11/12. 4 Wellingtons 148 Squadron attacked Comiso and Catania aerodromes. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 0730/12).

Personnel for Cyrenaica.

Your 0003/11 officers are being appointed. Approved to retain the ratings required. It is hoped that air transport can be arranged.
(D.P.S. 1139/12 to C. in C. Med).

Rhodes Aerodromes bombed.

Night 10th/11th. 6 Wellingtons dropped 15,000 lbs. of bombs on Maritza, Calato and Kattavia Aerodromes (Rhodes).
(H.Q.R.A.F.M.E, 1216/12).

MALAYA.

State of. Reply to Admty 1650/10. (S.O. Force H. 1615/12) See Operations Volume.

Libya Convoys.

West going convoys between Egyptian and Libyan ports will be known as (?A) (?C) convoys. East going convoys as C A convoys. S.N.O. inshore squadron pass to N.O.I.C. Benghazi.
(C. in C. Med, 1613/12 to R.A.(D) Med. etc).

Landing Craft.

Your 1236/3. Figures given differ considerably from those in your 1039/12 and from information supplied to D.C.O. representative. Request repetition of actual numbers to be expected.
(S.B.N.O. Suez Canal 1615/12 to Admty).

SOUTHERN FLOE. sunk.

Regret to report loss of South African Whaler (A/S Trawler) SOUTHERN FLOE off Mersa Tobruk on 11/2 presumably due to striking a mine. Only one survivor, lent from GLOUCESTER, states ship broke in half and no boat lowered and thinks he is only survivor.
(C. in C. Med 1638/12).

/Malta.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (contd).

Malta Raids.	1915 to 2306 several nuisance raids plotted. Some bombs dropped in sea. No damage no casualties. Fighters up but no interceptions. 1430 to 1510 approx. 5 JU 88's and 12 fighters believed M.E. 109's and Macchi 200's flew over the island. 8 Hurricanes up. Several engagements. Bombs dropped in sea. 2 Hurricanes missing. 3rd Hurricane forced landed Luqa. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta 1800/12).
Balloon Sites, Suez Canal.	Request for additional personnel. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. to Air Min. 1838/12) Balloon establishment recommended. (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. to Air Min. 1839/12)
ILLUSTRIOUS.	Admty 1852/4. Ammunition outfit adjusted. (C. in C. Med 1632/12).
Stampalia bombed. RORQUAL sunk enemy tug.	Situation report. 3 Swordfish based at Crete attacked Stampalia during night reconnaissance on 10/11. A freight ship was hit other damage not observed. On 31/1 RORQUAL, who had been minelaying in Adriatic, attacked by gunfire and sank Tug URSUS towing a floating battery. Whilst fighting the Tug floating battery came in to action and RORQUAL had to submerge. Battery subsequently drifted into Hvar whence it was later removed by Italians. Reported 20 out of 68 killed in Tug.
Libya Ports Clearence.	2. Mersa Tobruk and Gulf of Sollum now open though not yet safe. Regret to report sinking of SOUTHERN FLOE off Mersa Tobruk Swept Channel at 0400/11. Fear only one survivor. APHIS has now entered Benghazi. First report of alternative harbour and appliances fairly promising but what mining done by enemy not yet known. S.O. Force I in CHAKLA with DECOY HEREWARD, FAREHAM, PEONY HYACINTH and M/S Trawlers arrives a.m./13 for Operation of Clearing Harbour. It is hoped to run first convoy to arrive on 18/2.
Canal Open.	3. Ships have now passed through Canal in both directions with some delay, largest ship 15,000 tons southward.
4. Dodecanese) Benghazi)	
5. S/M's.	See Operations Volume. (C. in C. Med 2230/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941;
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

MANON.	Captured (C. in C. E.I. 0226/12, 1926/12) See Italian Merchant Ships.
French Flying Boat.	Messages between Massawa radio and French tanker ELORN at Djibouti indicated that French Flying Boat call sign Farap or Farip forced landed 9/2 bearing 116° from Massawa and possibly on line Jedda-Djibouti. Intercepted message in p.l. from Massawa at 0957Z/10 stating craft had already left to tow her. KINGSTON searched for Flying Boat without success. (C. in C. E.I. 1432Z/12 to Admty).
GLASGOW. HAWKINS.	GLASGOW and HAWKINS are to come under the operational control of C. in C. E.I. and are, therefore, to join his command temporarily. (D.O.D.(F) 1709/12 to C. in C's E.I. Med, S.A)
Kismayu, Operation "Canvas".	Situation of enemy shipping. (C. in C. E.I. 1832Z/12) See German Merchant Ships, Italian Merchant Ships.
CERES.	Maximum speed 22 knots due to boiler defect. (C. in C. E.I. 1832Z/12).
CITY OF ROUBAIX.	N.C.S.O. Aden 0715/9 CITY OF ROUBAIX has fire on board and is proceeding to Port Sudan. (C. in C. E.I., 1830Z/12 to Admty etc).
HILDA MOLLER.	To be retained Colombo. If already sailed to be recalled. Report action taken. (D.T.D. 1919/12 to C. in C. E.I).
TROILUS, "Q" Report possibly TANNENFELS.	My 0748/7/1. Now appears likely from report from Master of TROILUS that TANNENFELS was suspicious ship indicated in my 1940/1. If this is the case the D/F fix in my 0720/5 can only have been TANNENFELS if she doubled back to disguise her ultimate course. It is now considered probable that TANNENFELS (A) left Kismayu on 30/1, and destination (D) in my 0748/7 appears most likely. (C.in C. E.I. 1822/12 to E.I. Stn).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Orders to Shipping.	C. in C. China 0323Z/12, 0329/13 D.T.D. 1133/12. See Operations, Volume.
OSCAR GORTHEN.	My 1916/28 to Consul-General Honolulu. Honolulu reports following information given by a member of crew of OSCAR GORTHEN Begins. Captain and Chief Engineer strongly pro-Nazi. On 27/1 in 18° N. 146° E. sighted ship believed to be raider southbound 4 miles away, black, about 6000 tons, 1 funnel, clipper bow, regular stern, 1 gun uncertain of calibre, smaller one aft, no signs of aeroplane. (D.D.I.C. 1130/12 to C.O.I.S. Singapore).
ABERDARE. HARROW.	My 1807/1/1 and S.O.(I) Singapore 1101/9/2. ABERDARE and HARROW are to return to Singapore and remain on your station. (D.M.S. 1837/12 to C. in C. China).

America & West Indies.

NORTHLAND. HIGHLAND BRIGADE.	Your 1545/11. In view of Governor British Guiana tel. 58 9/2 to S. of S. for Colonies, reporting that transport for volunteers has been arranged from Beira? to Trinidad via Demerara, intend that arrangements made in my 1722/9 shoubd be adhered to. (C. in C. W.I. 0942/12 to Admty).
VAN KINSBERGEN.	Leave St. Lucia 14/2 to patrol independently shipping route between Lesser Antilles and 300 miles from Cape Orange vide my 1322/2/1. Leave patrol so as to arrive Paramaribo 19/2. (C. in C. W.I. 0952/12 to VAN KINSBERGEN).

/French.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

FORKIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies. (contd).

French Seaplane.

My 2001/7 (French Naval seaplane to join Free French) Seaplane is to be taken over by natives for general use at Trinidad. Report arrangements made by Trinidad GoV. re disposal of pilot and 2 air mechanics. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1122/12 to N.O.I.C. Trinidad).

LETITIA damage.

My 0131/9 (Casaulties) LETITIA very seriously damaged under boiler and engine rooms and boiler and engine have shifted. Salvage slow pending receipt of further pumps.
(R.A.3.B.S. 1631/12 to Admty).

Piarco Naval Air Station.

Request policy regarding secrecy of existence of Naval Air Station Piarco may be (?stated). Do not consider it possible to maintain any degree of secrecy for long. (C. in C. A.W.I. 1714/12 to Admty).

CROMARTY.

Request assistance may be rendered to expedite sailing of M.V. CROMARTY, arrived Bermuda 7/2 with machinery defect. If assistance impossible new assembly to water cooling system being sent in KINROSS leaving U.K. next week.
(D.T.D. 1805/12 to C. in C. A.W.I).

Shipping.

Arrivals for Convoy and independent sailing (list and routes) (N.C.S.O. Halifax, 2301/12).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

PROCIDA. 11/2 departure PROCIDA for Marseilles. (Valencia THI. 0634/12).

UCKERMARK. (at Kismayu since 1939) Attempted to scuttle herself when intercepted. Unlikely to remain afloat.
(C. in C. E.I. 1832Z/12 to Admty etc).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

VRUH (Name of ship not known in W.R.)
Still loading castor oil and tin ingots all ex Italian ship.
(Consul-Gen., Las Palmas, 1230/12).

CLIZIA. My 1741/11, CLIZIA arrived Bilbao.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1717/12 to N.A.Station).

LUCIA C.
CAPO LENA. LUCIA C is taking water 280 tons and CAPO LENA 140 tons suggesting preparations for sailing.
(Consul, Vigo. 1829/12 to D.N.I.)

CAPO LENA sailed from Vigo 2300 today.
(Consul, Vigo, 2325/12).

ADRIA
ERMINIA
MAZELLA
SAVOIA
LEONARDO
DA VINCI. My 0226/12 (See Diary 11/2) Present situation with regard to Kismayu enemy shipping is (a) ADRIA ERMINIA MAZELLA and SAVOIA due Mombasa p.m. today (b) LEONARDO DA VINCI captured and is being sent to Mombasa with 37 German prisoners from UCKERMARK.
(c) German ship UCKERMARK attempted to scuttle herself when intercepted. Unlikely to remain afloat.
At 0645Z/12 4 ships were steering North from coast. Furthest was 137 miles nearest was 25 miles from Kismayu. Endeavour is being made to round them up. (e) 4 ships reported still in Kismayu. (ii) CERES maximum speed 22 knots due to boiler defect.
(C.in C. E.I. 1832Z/12 to Admty etc.)

MANON. My 1832, ✓ 12 Italian ship MANON also captured
(C.in C. E.I. 1926Z/12 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

BRANDENBURG.
H.G. 53.

Following received from DEPTFORD before leaving convoy. Admiralty F.O.C.N.A. from DEPTFORD 936 A.Z. (a) No results from star shell search. Utility pattern dropped on good asdic contact 38 minutes after the attack. Contack 3 miles astern of convoy near position of sunk ship.
(b) Port side, not signalled.
(c) DEPTFORD starboard side VELOX port side.
(d) British ship BRANDENBURG (corrupt group) sunk.
(e) 0635/10 036° 10'N. 016° 38'W.
(f) 282° 10 hours.
(VELOX 1448/12 to Admty F.O.C.N.A).
BRANDENBURG, British 1473 tons.

JAMAICA PRODUCER.
(attacked 11/2).

My 2227/11 to Admiralty, Master of JAMAICA PRODUCER confirms without doubt sighting submarine and saw torpedo break surface under stern.
(N.O.S.O. Aultbea 1514/12 to C. in C. H.F).
N.O.S.O. Aultbea's 1514/12 and Capt D.5's 0901/12. Very important to confirm whether JAMAICA PRODUCER was attacked by submarine. Request information on following details.
(C. in C. H.F. 2209/12 to Admty for A.C.N.S(T)

W.B. WALKER.
(torpedoed 29/1)

SEAMAN return to Campbeltown. SOUTHERN PRIDE proceed to W.B. WALKER reported in 56° 25'N. 09° 40'W. at 1102/11. You will be met by tug SALVONIA about 1700/13.
(F O.I.C. Greenock 1715/12).
My 1715/12 Tug SALVONIA delayed 12 hours.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock 2103/12).

Submarines Reported.

2034/11.

D/F bearing at 2034/11 indicates Italian submarine in area 150 miles radius of Cape Finisterre.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0121/12).

Search for S/M sighted by NELSON.

Your 2358/11. Intend proceeding direct to Scapa as the distance is the same.
(JACKAL 0210/12 to F.O.C.D.F. H.F.).
Request KELLY, KASHMIR, KIPLING and JACKAL may be ordered to Londonderry on completion of present A/S hunt.
(C. in C.W.A. 1027/12 to C. in C. H.F).

/My.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

My 2140/11 and 2318/11. A/S Escort today cancelled.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1100/12 to D.5.).
As weather makes detection by R.D.F. at night unlikely and report is now 2 days old propose to proceed to Londonderry after dark in accordance with C. in C. W.A's. 1027/12 detach BOREAS to search between Scapa request JACKAL may meet me at Londonderry.
(Capt D.5 1725/12 to C. in C. H.F).
Your 1725/12 Approved.
(C. in C. H.F. 1847/12 to Capt D.5).
My 1725/12. Have abandoned search as BOREAS has excessive density in boilers. Have detached BOREAS escorted by KIPLING to Scapa, E.T.A 0500/13. Request JACKAL may rendezvous with KIPLING off Dunnet Head 0500/13 and both ships proceed Londonderry. KELLY and KASHMIR proceeding Londonderry through Minches.
(Capt D.5. 2051/12 to C. in C. H.F. R.A.D.H.F)

Wreck possibly mistaken for U/B.

Bow capsized wreck found at noon 11/2 in position 059° 23' 008° 45' could well have been mistaken for U.Boat. Gunfire holed hull but wreck remained awash.
(Capt D.5. 0901/12).

1252.

One unknown submarine course unknown.
5.02 N. 12 48W.
(LA CHRISTENSEN T.O.R1252Z/12 to Freetown W/T)

1925.

One submarine Like T. Class in position 035° 26' 014° 17' mean course and speed 020° 6. Challenge not answered.
(UPHOLDER 1925/12 to V.A. Malta).

2034.

D/F bearings indicate Italian U/B call sign 67D in area 150 miles radius Cape Finisterre.
(D.D.I.C. 2216/12).

/Estimated U/B.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

12.2.1941.
Wednesday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (contd).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

GERMAN: 1 60 miles of 60° 57'N. 12° 37'W.
1 60 miles of 58° N. 24° 30'W.
1 30 miles of 55° 30' N. 18° 30'W.
1 40 miles of 54° 30'N. 14°30'W.
1 60 miles of 52° 30'N. 22° 30'W.
1 near 38° N. 21° 30'W.
ITALIAN: 1 N.W. Approaches.
1 possibly Madeira - Canaries.
(D.D.I.C. 1333/12).

Submarines Attacked.

By NORTHERN CHIEF.

Follwoing received S.O. Trawlers from NORTHERN CHIEF. Investigated contact 282° C.W. H. 59 miles T.O.O. 0035.
(Scapa W/T 0155/12).

My 0035/12. Have attacked twice oil seen on the surface. Still in contact position 058° 49'N. 006° 53'W.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 0240/12)

My 0035/12 consider contact to be wreck indicated in your 0350/12 (word ommtted ?continuing) to patrol.
(NORTHERN CHIEF 0650/12 to S.O. Trawlers N.P)

By DEPTFORD.

In 36.10 N., 16. 38 W. on 10/2. (See VSLOX 1448/12 under Ships Attacked).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

Search for enemy cruiser.

NIGERIA and ARETHUSA who left patrol at 2100/12 went into Reykjavik this morning to fuel and were ordered to proceed at 0900 tomorrow and to remain on patrol in Denmark Straits until 2100/15. Air co-operation is being arranged.

E.boats off Ostend.

12 possible E. or R. boats escorting 2 small merchant vessels and 18 small motor craft were reported manoeuvring about 3 miles off Ostend at 1520/13.

Enemy main units.

There were possible indications today that German main units may be attempting to reach Biscay ports and of a movement from Oslo Fiord through the Skagerrak northwards. Air R.C. was carried out today off the approaches to the English Channel and Bay of Biscay.

SNAPPER overdue.

SNAPPER has failed to R.V. from patrol in the Bay of Biscay and has not been heard of since 31/1. If SNAPPER does not arrive by 1000/14 she must be considered lost.

U-boat attacks.

ARTHUR F. CORWIN (Tanker 10516 tons) a straggler from H.X.106 was torpedoed this afternoon 180 miles N.N.W. of Rockall. BURNHAM, which went to her assistance reported that she was on fire and sinking and that two other ships were on fire.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity.

Bad weather caused some curtailment of routine patrols today, particularly in the channel and North Sea.
Special reconnaissances were made this morning to Kristiansand and Trondheim.
6 Hudsons attacked Hoyanger (Norway) last night.

Enemy Air Activity.

L.26 was unsuccessfully bombed by a Ju.88 near Fiden Light this morning.
Convoy F.N.6 was unsuccessfully bombed off the Humber this morning.
S.S. WESTCLIFFE HALL was bombed off Whitby this afternoon and was damaged. She has 2 U.X.B. in her hold.
It was reported today that trawler ERMINE was unsuccessfully bombed on 9/2 off Kindale Old Head; and trawler WILLIAM BUNCE was machine gunned and bombed on 10/2 20 miles S.S.E. of the Fastnet and hit and drove off her attacker without damage to herself.
Submarine L.26 was unsuccessfully bombed 2 miles north of Fiden light today.
Convoy E.N.71 was attacked this evening off Girdleness and bombs fell in Aberdeen.
S.S. DALDORCH had one man killed;
S.S. CAPE RODNEY was damaged and anchored in Leith Roads; and a bomb exploded in Victoria Basin, Aberdeen. Another hit S.S. WELSH ROSE lying alongside and did not explode; all vessels near by have been cleared.

/ A/S Trawler RUBENS ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

A/S Trawler RUBENS was bombed this afternoon about 230 miles S.W. of Fastnet and is reported to be sinking.

The Nap Tower was machine gunned today. No damage was caused.

Plymouth was attacked early this morning a few bombs being dropped. No naval damage is reported.

Minor damage was caused by attack on the Minesweeping Base at Yarmouth this afternoon.

Mining.

Minelaying by enemy aircraft today is suspected off Aberdeen; and in the Irish Sea and off Liverpool last night.

Milford Haven and Preston are closed.
Entry into Liverpool is prohibited during the dark hours.
Three acoustic mines were swept in the entrance to Campbeltown harbour this morning and the port is closed.
The Humber was opened at 1226. The Convoy North and South Examination anchorages remain closed.

M.T.B.41 was mined and sunk off Harwich p.m. today.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

CAMITO this afternoon rescued from a raft a few survivors from SHREWSBURY, WALLABY and PERSEUS, three of the ships sunk yesterday by raider 200 miles east of the Azores.

South Atlantic.

The scheme for facilitating the junction of S.L.S. and H.G. Convoys (See 5/2) is temporarily in abeyance.

Mediterranean.

Air Operations. 2 Wellingtons bombed Rhodes naval and commercial harbour last night.
German aircraft dropped 8 mines at Benghasi.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation "Canvas".

Air R.C. of Kismayu this morning showed the town apparently being evacuated, one ship scuttled in harbour and oil all over the harbour from tanks which had been drained. There was no A.A. fire.

KANDAHAR fired 3 salvoes at Kismayu Island today to see if the shore batteries were still in action.

SHROPSHIRE bombarded Mogadishu today and obtained several straddles on a merchant ship but could not observe the results. She also bombarded motor transport and encampments near Brava.
There was no reply from the shore batteries on either occasion.

CAPETOWN was bombed unsuccessfully off Brava today. One enemy ship is aground south of Brava.
S.A.A.F. bombed Berbera in support of Operations in Italian Somaliland.

F.A.A. attack on Massawa Operation "Composition".

Massawa was attacked by 14 Albacores from FORMIDABLE early this morning. The attack was badly hampered by enemy aircraft. Probably one hit was made with torpedo on ship at Jetty where a S/M and supply ship were reported by reconnaissance. One merchant ship possibly sunk either by torpedo or bomb. Bombing attack was made on destroyers in main Harbour. One probable hit on large destroyer. Heavy close range fire, especially in Northern Harbour. 2 aircraft did not return.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Certain redistribution of forces is under consideration.

Japanese shipping traffic is still normal, though only old ships are trading west of Singapore. Important reinforcements from Japan are with the South China Fleet.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of U.K.

DELUGE. At 1130/13.
(D.C. 1206/13).
At 2330/13.
(D.C. 2337/13).

A.A. Defence of Scapa. Your 1802/11 to C.in C. H.F. If it was known that there was a weakness in detecting low flying aircraft approaching from a North Westerly direction it is not understood why guns are not kept manned.
(1st S.L. 2338/13 to A.C.O.S.)

Movements.

ARGUS. Progress 12th and 13th nil. Weather unsuitable.
(ARGUS, 0946/13).

OTTAWA. P.C. and S. 052° 30'N., 023° 00'W. 090° 16 knots. Altering to 050° at 1615.
RESTIGOUCHE, SKEENA, ST. LAURENT in company.
(OTTAWA 1001/13).

CACHALOT. My 2221/12. On completion of operation F.D.30 proceed through following positions, to Muckle Flugga, thence as in F.D.29. Following S.B.R. and T.B.R. arranged:-
(S.2. 1108/13 to CACHALOT).

Northern Patrol. Trawler Lines tonight.
5 Trawlers.
(A.C.O.S. 1539/13).

MOST SECRET..

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Submarines. — Positions at 0800/14 and movements for the following 24 hours. (F.O.S. 1634/13).

5th M/S Flotilla. SPEEDY. — My 1059/11. S.O. 5th M/S Flotilla and SPEEDY may be delayed sailing on account of weather. Proceed in accordance with my 1059/11 if the weather is suitable. (C.in C. Rosyth 1859/13).

BULLFINCH KIRRIEMOOR. — Sailed escorted by CROCUS and MARGUERITE for Freetown in accordance with Admiralty 1632/5/2 and my 1519/9/2. (N.O.I.C. Greenock 1917/13).

LA CAPRICIEUSE (R/V with SNAPPER). — Your 1031/13. Remain in vicinity of R/V until 1000/14. (S.2. 2213/13 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).

Operations.

Search for Enemy Cruiser. — Arrivals, Scapa. GALATEA, AURORA 0310 REPULSE MATABELE ESKIMO PUNJABI 0310. (A.C.O.S. 0311/13).
NIGERIA and ARETHUSA are to proceed to original patrol area leaving Reykjavik at 0900/14. Patrol is to be continued until 2100/15, when ships are to return to Scapa.

F.O.I.C. Iceland is requested to embark REPULSE's aircraft in NIGERIA.
(C.in C. H.F. 1004/13).
NIGERIA and ARETHUSA arrived 0925 G.M.T.
(F.O.Iceland 1015/13).
NORFOLK arrived Scapa 1555.
(A.C.O.S. 1635/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Operation P.V.1.

Three Motor Launches patrolling to eastward of Aldeburgh Light Float returning Yarmouth at daylight. M.T.B's may be met returning to Harwich at daylight.
(C.in C. Nore, 1807/13 to SOUTHDOWN, etc.)

British Air Activity.

Patrols.

Patrols being flown today: Kristiansand Recco., Trondheim, Recco., SAIA, UNST.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0954/13).

From 2000 tonight aircraft will patrol in area bounded by following positions: 047°45'N., 007° 15'W., 047° 45'N., 007° 45'W. 046° 30'N., 007° 45'W., 046° 30'N., 007° 15'W
(F.O.S. 1534/13 to S/M's Area B).

My 1004/13. (~~Denmark Strait~~ Iceland Faroes Patrol) Request air co-operation and suggest following patrols. 14/2, FUGLE and R one, the latter being as far westwards as practicable. 15/2 FUGLE.

(ii) If patrols cannot be maintained throughout daylight, prefer FUGLE should be P.M. and R one A.M.
(C.in C. H.F. 1553/13 to C.in C. Rosyth).

The following patrol will be flown tomorrow with the object of locating enemy surface vessels which may be attempting to reach Brest.

Cross over patrol from 48° 10'N., 6° 45' W., through 46° 30'N., 6° 15'W., 46° 30'N., 6° 45'W., and 48° 10'N., 6° 15'W.
First sortie using ASV to be on patrol at dawn, and patrol to be continued throughout the day so far as availability of aircraft permits.
(H.Q.C.C. 1719/13 to 19 Group) (Plymouth A.C.H.Q. 2140/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Off Thames Estuary.

Believed from German intercept that assistance is being sent to a German airman in the sea in area bounded by 51° 15'N., 45'N., 51°, 01° 30'E., and 02° 30'E.

(3) One cannon Anson escorted by three fighter Blenheims are to take off forthwith to attack the ships and air or surface craft going to assist the German airman.
(Chetham A.C.H.Q. 1645/13).

Own A/C engaged by A/A Batteries.

X.916. Further to our A.887 30/10.
Request your observations on C.in C. W.A. Postagram 1114/7/2.
(Air Ministry F.O.6. 1730/12 to Admty).

Enemy Air Activity.

Plymouth.

Several hostile aircraft passed over Plymouth on southerly course, between 0330 and 0350 and again between 0530 and 0545 and dropped 7 H.E. and believed 1 parachute mine.
(No naval damage reported).
(Group Controller, Plymouth 0603/13 to Emregeom, Bristol).

EAMONT (Bombed 11/2).
JOHN DUNKIN (Bombed 11/2).
Presumed Sunk.

Your 0525/2 to Admty.

1. Sea was too rough yesterday for Bomb Safety Officer to board Trawler EAMONT which dragged ashore North of Latheron Wheel Harbour during the night.
Further action to render bomb safe and salvage attempt will be made when weather moderates.

2. Search has been made for Trawler JOHN DUN-KIN but no trace found and she is now presumed sunk.
(F.O.I.C. Invergordon 0958/13 to C.in C. Rosyth.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy F.N.Even.

Enemy aircraft bombing Convoy AGENT in 53° 52'N., 0° 44'E.
(HOLDERNESS 1155/13).
My 1155. No hits.
(HOLDERNESS, 1203/13).

BARON RENFREW. (Bombed 28/1).

Cancel all previous signals. Campbeltown closed. Proceed to Ardrossan for fuel and await further instructions.
(P.O.I.C. Greenock 1210/13 to SEAMAN, TENACITY).

A/C report of Convoy.

My 39/992 of 21/1/41. At 1210 G.M.T. Enemy A/C reporting to base six medium size ships accompanied by one destroyer on a Northerly course.

At 1224 G.M.T. Position Ships 100 miles E. of Middlesborough.
(P.O.I.C. Harwich, 1340/13 to C.in C. Nore).

WESTCLIFF HALL.

(British 1900 tons). Bombed off Whitby.
(Nore W/T 1423/13).
Am returning to assist.
(VALOROUS 1546/13).
My 1546. WESTCLIFF HALL bombed off Whitby. Steering gear damaged. Two unexploded bombs in hold. Request tug. Trawler HAWTHORN standing by. Am rejoining F.N.5.
(VALOROUS 1701/13 to C.in C. Rosyth).

RUBENS.

(A/S Trawler). Sinking approx. 48° 50'N., 14° 20'W.
(RUBENS, 1428/13).
Help 1412/13 G.M.T. de GLD.
(RUBENS Recd., Lands End, 1516/13).

Automatic AAAA signal heard at 1451/13 strength 4 bearing 348° Lands End.
(Lands End, 1454/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

ERMINE. WILLIAM BUNCE.	Trawler ERMINE bombed by Dornier 215 and large plane probably Focke Wulf, when fishing 10 miles S. by W. 1/2 W Kinsale Old Head 1515/9. No damage or casualties. Trawler WILLIAM BUNCE machine gunned and bombed by Dornier 215 20'S.S.E. Fastnet 1430/10. Plane hit by Trawlers Hotchkiss and made off. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1526/13).
Convoy E.N.71.	Help convoy in 57° 20'N., 1° 40'W. (Convoy USAGE 1725/13 and 1836/13). Fighter aircraft has been sent. (Plymouth W/T 1836/13).
S.S. DALDORCH.	(5571 tons). One man killed. No damage, to ship. (B.M.S.E. 305).
Nab Tower.	Nab Tower reports a JU 88 approached at 1549 from the East at height 300 feet. Aircraft steered steady course passed Nab Tower and opened fire on them with machine gun and then turned off eastwards. No casualties and no damage sustained. (C.in C. Portsmouth 1734/13).
Yarmouth Bombed.	Damage by enemy action 1545/13. Bomb dropped on Port and Harbour Commissions Quay not requisitioned. Damage to Admiralty property at Minesweeping Base minor only. Repairs estimated pounds ten in hand. Two unexploded bombs fell in river adjacent. (Works, Shotley Gate, 1803/13).
L.26 attacked in Firth of Forth.	Following received from S.9. begins. L.26 reports attacked by JU 88 2 miles due North of Fidra Light. Four bombs dropped. No machine-gunning. Height of aircraft approximately 100 feet, nearest bomb 100 yards on starboard bow. No damage or casualties. (F.O.S. 1941/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Aberdeen bombed. Convoy E.N.71 attacked. WELSHROSE hit.

E.N.71 attacked by enemy A/C approx. between 090 degs. Girdleness and 090 degs. Belhelvie approx. 1830. 2 Bombs dropped in centre of Aberdeen 1900. No known damage to Admiralty property. ABEILLE IV from Peterhead and ATTENTIF from Aberdeen proceeding to search in area above denoted in reply to W/T message from H.M.T. PIROUETTE received 1901/13.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2039/13).

My 2039/13. One bomb exploded in Victoria Basin; another hit S.S. WELSHROSE lying alongside in Victoria Basin fracturing main mast thence hit No.1. hatch ricocheted and passed through bulwarks and overboard. Bomb did not explode. Have cleared all vessels in vicinity. D.G. wiping range may be damaged in Basin but no report of any damage in dock area.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 2120/13).

Mining.

Milford Haven.

Port closed owing to mines laid by enemy aircraft.
(F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 0434/13).

Preston.

Port closed.
(F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 0900/13).

Campbeltown.

Port closed owing to enemy minelaying.
(N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1002/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Campbeltown. (Contd.)	Three acoustic mines swept in entrance to Harbour this morning. Intend carrying out sweep of Exercise Areas. This will delay sea training for a further three days. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown, 1440/13). Intend to open Port 0900 tomorrow. (N.O.I.C. Campbeltown 1740/13).
P.W.4. (Belgian Coast.)	My 1133/11. Weather permitting operation P.W.4. will be carried out tonight. (C.in C. Nore, 1121/13).
Liverpool.	Entry into Liverpool during dark hours prohibited. Precautions on entry. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1151/13 to DEVONSHIRE).
S.N.7.B. and S.N.68.A.	My 1624/12. Cover, cruiser escort, and additional destroyers will be available if 1st M/L Squadron sails for operation p.m./15. (C.in C. H.F. 1221/13 to R.A.M.L.) Amend my 0925/12 (being passed to H.M.S. REPULSE), as follows. Item G to read 1815/1[illegible] All port of destination times to be 48 hours later than shown originally. (R.A.M.L. 1538/13).
Humber.	Open to navigation. Convoy North and South Examination anchorages remain closed. (F.O. Humber 1226/13).
Explosion.	Patrol H.T. reports loud under-water explosion 1½ miles S.W. of 54 A Buoy. Unable to transmit. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1415/13).
B.S.51. ~~(Firth of Forth.)~~	Operation B.S.51 postponed owing to fog. Intend TEVIOT BANK and WHITSHED to sail from Spurn Point at 1700/14 and take departure from 21 Buoy at 0930/15. Returning to 21 Buoy and thence to Humber. Laying will begin at 1100/15. (S.O. M/L Immingham, 1500/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Minins. (Contd.)

Yarmouth.	Cancel my 1149/12. Port now open. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1801/13).
	Two L.L. drifters detonated ground mine position 100° 7 cables south Pier Head. (F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 1921/13).
Spurn Point.	The following four mines exploded today. Details. (F.O. Humber 1900/13).
Sweep of Gap A.	Your 1059/11. Owing to weather conditions preventing my making good more than four knots intend postponing operation 24 hours. Intend anchoring Fraserburgh. S.O.5th M/S F. inform SPEEDY. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1911/13).
Aberdeen Area.	Suspected minelaying by enemy A/C in area Catterline 090 degs. between 3 and 4½ miles Catterline 090 degs. confirmed by plotting. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen, 2021/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Enemy Main Units.	Activity of enemy long range aircraft indicates possibility that German main units may be attempting to make Biscay ports. (F.O.S. 1409/13 to S/M's Area B).
Enemy Units.	W/T activity indicates possibility of movement of enemy units from Oslo Fiord through Skagerrak Northwards today. (F.O.S. 1431/13 to S/M's Area A).
Off Ostend.	P.R.U. reports at 1520, 30 ships of which 12 are probably E/Boats, the others being smaller, operating 2 to 4 miles off Ostend. (Chatham A.C.H.Q. 1645/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys.

Coastal
Convoys.

F.N.5. Positions.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1626/13).
E.T.A.
(VERDUN 0130/13 to N.O.I.C. Tyne)
Ships to join.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1656/13).
E.T.A.
(VERLUN 1900/13 to C.in C. Rosyth).

F.S.10. Sailed.
(F.O.I.C. Tyne, 0207/13)
29 ships.
(0932/13).
Absentees.
(0934/13).

E.N.71. Sailed, escorts, 31 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0635/13 amended 1530/13).
Lists.
(N.C.S.O. Methil 0738/13 N.C.S.O. Oban 1302/1
1 joining from Aberdeen.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 2237/13 to PIROUETTE).

F.N.7. Code word Radio.
(C.in C. Nore, 0733/13)
Sailed, 36 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 0931/13).
2 ships sailed.
(N.C.S.O. Harwich 1511/13).
List.
(N.C.S.O. Thames 1626/13).
Ships joining.
(N.C.S.O. Humber 1724/13). (C.in C. Rosyth 1742/13).

E.N.U.70. Sailed unescorted. 5 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Altbea, 0944/13).
List.
(1155/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

F.N.10.)
F.S.11.) Escorts.
F.S.12.) (C.in C. Rosyth, 0945/13).

O.B.U.285. Sailed unescorted. 25 ships.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1022/13).
List and Destination (1613/13).

W.N.83. JAMAICA PRODUCER to sail at 1700/13.
(N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1105/13).
Sailed. (1822/23).
Position.
(A.C.O.S. 1159/13).
CURACOA leaves 2330/13 for E.N.71.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1626/13).
E.T.A. Kinnaird Head.
(ELLESMERE, 1630/13).

O.B.284. ABERDEEN to rejoin.
(C.in C. W.A. 1213/13).

F.S.8. Position, 8 ships for London.
(N.C.S.O. Thames, 1246/13).

C.E.25. Postponed 24 hours, fog.
(C.in C. Portsmouth, 1307/13).

W.N.84. 2 ships to join.
(N.C.S.O. Lyness, 1331/13).
CURACOA to join.
(R.A.D.H.F. 2101/13).

F.S.9. Proceeding.
(VERSATILE, 1348/13).
E.T.A. Nore.
(VERSATILE, 1450/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Coastal Convoys. (Contd.)	
O.B.286.	Sailed CAMELIA escort. (N.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1500/13, N.C.S.O. Mersey, 2315/13).
O.B.O.286.	Time of sailing, 4 ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1717/13).
F.S.11.) E.N.72.) F.S.12.) F.S.13.)	Probable sailing time. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1603/13).
F.N.6.	Ships to join. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1656/13).
W.N.U.84.	1700/13 unescorted. 1 Ship. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea, 1823/13).
E.N.70.	Amending WHITEHALL 1801/12. (ROCHESTER 1247/13). Approaching route K. (A.C.W.A. 1913/13 to ROCHESTER, WHITEHALL). 11 ships arrived from Methil, ships from Loch Ewe not arrived. (N.C.S.O. Oban, 1956/13).
F.S.11.	Sailed, 17 ships. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 2215/13).
F.N.8.	About 12 ships, VERSATILE and WESTMINSTER to escort. (C.in C. Nore, 2141/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys.

S.C.21. P.C. and S. at 2212/13.
(MONTCALM 0402/13).
ABERDEEN to rejoin 14/2.
(C.in C. W.A. 1213/13).

H.G.53. U/Boat probably moving to intercept.
(D.D.I.C. 1244/13).

O.G.53. 3 ships to join.
(C.in C. W.A. 1127/13 to PIROUETTE for Commodore).

B.H.X.110. List.
(Navy Control Bermuda 1201/13 to Adty.)

H.G.52. Fr. CHARLES PLUMIER arrived.
(N.C.S.O. Belfast, 1430/13).

H.G.54. Add to my 1631/11 (list).
(F.O.C.N.A. 1443/13).

H.X.109. Sailing telegram.
(S.C.N.O. Halifax 1511/13).

H.X.107. Meet.
(C.in C. W.A. 1735/13 to ARROW, MISTRAL, etc).

S.L.64. Sailing telegram as amended by Admty.
(D.T.D., 1808/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys. (Contd.)

Ocean Convoys. (Contd.)

H.G.50. Approaching Route K.
(M.C.W.A. 1913/13 to ROCHESTER, WHITEHALL).

H.X.106. Search for.
(MALCOLM, 1919/13 BURNHAM, 2320/13).

Stragglers. Instructions for those unable to rejoin Convoy which have preceeded on their standard route.
(D.T.D. 1349/13 to C.O.A.C. Halifax, N.C.S.O. Bermuda).

Docking of Slow Ships. Essential that ships which are not armed or Degaussed and which are too slow owing to foul bottom should be docked before being loaded and sent to convoy assembly Port. A number of these ships, mostly Allied, are of such an age that it is not advisable to dock them when full of cargo.
(M.S.R. Freetown, 1640/13 to M. of Shipping).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

SKATE.	C.in C. W.A. 2219/12. Distiller plant out of action. Am returning to Londonderry. (SKATE 0020/13).
BOREAS.	Capt: (D) 5's 2057. Shall be 6 hours late. BOREAS best speed 4 knots. (KIPLING 0050/13).
BROADWATER.	Arrived with boiler defects. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 0850/13).
SNAPPER (Presumed Lost).	SNAPPER was ordered to leave patrol in Bay of Biscay North Zone on 10/2 and R/V with ESCORT off Trevose Head at 0815/12. SNAPPER has not arrived at R/V and has not replied to signal during night 12th to 13th February ordering her to report her expected time of arrival. Escort is remaining at R/V until 1000/14. If nothing is heard of SNAPPER by that time it is regretted that she must be considered lost. Nothing has been heard of SNAPPER since parting company with Escort on 31/1. (F.O.S. 1224/13).
BELGIA. (Swedish 2076 tons).	(Swedish 2076 tons). Intend sailing tugs ST.MELLONS and KENIA escorted by Paddle M/S DUCHESS OF ROTHSAY at 0830/14/2 to salve S.S. BELGIA ashore off Walton Pier arriving at 1100 to commence towing thence returning to Harwich by dark. Request fighter protection. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1536/13).
KIRIN.	(Balloon Barrage Yacht). Sustained damage from S.S. KIRKWOOD in Methil dock Fairway at 1700/12. (N.O.I.C. Methil 1550/13).
AURETTA.	(British 4571 tons) Grounded at Crail 0620/12. Refloated. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1603/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

SCOTTISH STANDARD.	(British Tanker, 6999 tons). Arrived with engine breakdown ex OBC 285. Will be sailed to join OB287. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 1805/13).
Unknown Vessel.	Tug ABEILLE IV sailed to vessel believed in distress position War Channel 140° . Bullars of Buchan. (N.O.I.C. Peterhead 2035/13).
MACON.	(4727 tons). Latitude 41° 37'N., (?longitude) (? 27°) ?24) minutes W. Boiler and (2 corrupt groups). (?require) (?assistance). (MACON 2230/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Enemy Raiders, Situation.

North Atlantic.	My 2318/6. (1) H.M.S. RAMILLIES caught brief glimpse of mast and top of German warship in 52° 55'N 34° 00'W. at 1250 B.S.T./8. This may have been the HIPPER Class Cruiser from Brest, of SCHEER. (2) Convoy S.L.S.64 attacked 200 miles East of Azores at 1135B.S.T./12. No further information, but German Communique referring to attack mentions warships, so possibly the 2 vessels which attacked EURYLOCHUS were responsible. (3) D/F indications on 9/2 of raider in area 10° - 20° N., 30° to 40° W.
South Atlantic.	D/F fix on 9/2 indicates unit probably S.S.W. of St. Helena.
Southern Ocean.	No fresh news. Raider must have captured 700 men, 150,000 barrels of whale oil and 10,000 tons fuel oil.
Indian and Pacific Ocean.	No fresh information. (D.D.I.C. 1826/13).

Attack on Convoy S.L.S.64 by Raider 12/2.

Convoy Situation S.L.64.	My 2014/12. Para. A.4. For 45° 30'N., 23° 30'W. read 43° 30'N., 23° 00'W. (D.C.D.(F) 1358/13 to F.O.Force H).
TUNA.	My 2342/12. (A) in view of possible movement of own forces in your vicinity endeavour to pass through following positions at 0800 daily, 14/2 035° 30'N., 016° 20'W., 15/2 034° 15'N., 011° W. 16/2 035° 45'N., 006° 20'W. Report your p.c. and s. if unable to pass through position within four hours of time stated. All times B.S.T. (B) Escort to Gibraltar will be provided from R/V. (C) TUNA will be required to leave Gibraltar probably 48 hours after arrival escorting convoy to U.K. (F.O.C.N.A. 1444/13 to TUNA).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Portuguese Report.	Reporting the attack. Portuguese Naval source. A.O. (N.A. Lisbon, 1801 /13 to Admty).
Weather German Claim.	My 1801/13. For information, estimated direction of wind force in area of attack. 8. German broadcast claims that 13 ships were sunk. (D.O.D.(F) 1801/13 to SHEFFIELD, CAMITO CORINTHIAN, CAVINA, MARON).
SHREWSBURY, WARLABY, PERSEUS, survivors.	Rescued from raft in 037° 14'N., 021° 08'W. at 1400 four survivors from British ship SHREWSBURY one from British ship WARLABY on from Greek ship PERSEUS. All state emphatically from silhouettes that raider was German Cruiser BLUCHER class. Also that four ships were undamaged and picked up many survivors. Wind (? group omitted) 07/13 W., 2000/13 N.W. 7-8 moderate. (CAMITO 2100/13 to Admty). SHREWSBURY, 4542 tons, Wheat, for Oban. WARLABY, 4876 tons, Oil cake, for Oban. PERSEUS, 5172 tons, General, for Belfast.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Operations Against Vichy French.

Convoy.

Gibraltar 13/2 1220 French Destroyer TEMPETE escorting French ship ALICE ROBERT laden, with MARECHAL LYAUTEY full, passing W. to E.
(S.O.(I) Gibraltar 1503/13).

French Forces. N.Africa.

V.A. Godfrey 11/2 volunteered statement that though French Forces were fairly well equipped in North Africa they were very short of petrol.
(C.in C. Med., 2005/13 to Admty).

Intructions when boarding French Ships.

Officer i/c Boarding party or armed guard placed on board French Merchant Vessels not to give any guarantee as to ultimate action that may be taken with regard to ship's cargo or crew. Instructions are that ship is to be sent in for examination. Any attempt to scuttle will be regarded as resistance to visit and search. Any report made by ship by W/T is an unneutral act as for any neutral ship.
Officer i/c can let it be known that opportunity will be given for any that wish to join Free French or serve in allied ships. No guarantee should be given as to where ship will be taken. Otherwise attitude should be friendly in pursuance of exercise of belligerent rights under International Law, and co-operation invited.
(C.in C. S.A. 2031/12 to S.A.Station).

North Atlantic.

TUNA.

TUNA 035° 30'N., 016° 20'W. proceeding on surface, course 106° speed 11 knots.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1214/13 to N.A. Station).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RESOLUTION. Admty. 1206/3 and 1919/27. C.in C. W.A's 1905/4. JUPITER will not be available owing to defects. Intend to sail RESOLUTION escorted by JERSEY FEARLESS FOXHOUND FIREDRAKE p.m./14 routed in accordance with Admty. 1206/3 to R/V in 042° 33'N., 017° 15'W. at 1100 Zone - One/18. Request that FEARLESS, FOXHOUND, FIREDRAKE be relieved in this position as it is necessary that they should all return to Gibraltar. E.T.A. Nab Tower.
C.in C. W.A. 1905/4 para.4. Request confirmation that HUNT Class will join escort.
(F.O.C.N.A. 1246/13 to C.in C. W.A.→

EMPIRE TROOPER, ENCOUNTER, "Vees". Admty 2125/12 and 2015/12. Subject to completion of defects intend sailing EMPIRE TROOPER with two Vees routed East of Canary Islands for Freetown p.m./18. ISIS and ENCOUNTER complete defects p.m./18. In order to have a screen available to meet Force H. intended to retain ISIS, ENCOUNTER until the return of destroyers escorting (a) RESOLUTION (b) Troop ships KENYA and SOBIESKI. Anticipated date of ~~1815~~ ISIS and ENCOUNTER to sail for Freetown.
(F.O.C.N.A., 1532/13 to C.in C. S.A.)
Your 1325/13 and my 1532/13. Intend sailing only 2 Vees available p.m./14 to comply with your 1325/13. EMPIRE TROOPER will be sailed on completion of defects probably p.m./18 without escort and routed east of Canary Islands.
(F.O.C.N.A. 2316/13 to C.in C. S.A.)

South Atlantic.

W.S.6. Re water supply at Freetown and use of DOMINION MONARCH and ORCADES. (D. of S.T. 0042/13 to N.O.I.C's Simonstown and Durban).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

KETTY BROVIG Overdue.	KETTY BROVIG due at Lourenco Marques 9/2 not arrived. (S.O.(I) Capetown, 0902/13).
Enemy Unit.	D/F at 0236Z/13 indicates enemy unit (? possibly) surface within 150 miles of (I) 01° N., 020°W. reliability 30% or (II) 025° N., 027° W. reliability 25% or (III) N.W. of Ascension reliability 40%. (C.in C. S.A. 1129N/13 to S.A. Sqdn.)
CHATEAU ROUX.	Free French, cargo cotton and rubber for U.K. is too slow for Convoy owing to foul bottom is not degaussed and has no ammunition guns. Consider chance of safe arrival small and that such ships should not be sent to U.K. in that condition. Min. of Shipping representative Freetown concurs. (N.C.S.O. Freetown, 1404/13 to Admty for M. of Shipping).
Shipping W. Africa to Cape.	West African Governor's conference have approached Secretary of State with a view to employment of a ship on run West African ports - Cape. From Naval point of view definite advantage in establishing a regular service between W. Africa and Cape. TOUAREG would be suitable ship as a start as suggested. (C.in C. S.A. 1821/13 to Admty).
Fresh Water Freetown.	Masters of transports should be instructed to control the expenditure of fresh water so that replenishments at Freetown shall n exceed those for which provision has been made on the basis of a twenty day voyage. (D.O.D.(F) 1846/13 to BIRMINGHAM, PHOEBE etc.)
Shipping.	Information signal. (S.O.(I) Freetown, 1901N/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic. (Contd.)

EURYLOCHUS (sunk 29/1)

Your 1437N/9. 17 survivors of EURYLOCHUS landed today February 14th from Spanish MONTE TIEDE. Master reports that steamer sank. 1900/29/1 8° 15'N., 25° 4'W by shell fire from two enemy ships. Only one ship seen by survivors. This appeared to be a pocket Battleship but owing to darkness was not clearly seen and no description could be given.

All C.B's including bag from Dominions Secretary destroyed.

Replying to your questions (a) quite dark no moon (b) closest distance at which seen 500 yards. (c) broadside view only obtained by survivors after steamer sank (d) appeared to have one turret on fore deck unable to see if any on after deck (e) Each ship fired salvo of two guns (f) very high super structure by fore bridge but unable to distinguish if Tripod mast. (g) unable to distinguish any triangular structure forward.
(N.C.S.O. Buenos Aires 1930/13).

S.L.S. and H.G.Convoys, junction.

Scheme for the junction of S.L.S. and H.G. convoys is temporarily in abeyance. Until further orders S.L. and S.L.S. convoys must be sailed as one convoy.
(D.T.D. 1946/13 to C.in C. S.A.)

Mediterranean.

Mine Accident.

My 1418/9 and 1608/10. Conclusions of technical enquiry.
(V.A.Malta, 0905/13).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

Rhodes bombed.	Op. Summ. O.248 up to 1200 hours 13/2. Night 11/12. 10 Wellingtons dropped 24750 lbs. of bombs on Calato, Maritza and Kattavia aerodromes (Rhodes). (H.Q. R.A.F., M.E. 1206/13).
Harbour Defence.	Summary of harbour defence material being sent to Mediterranean. Policy is to send as much as possible leaving its application to you. (D. of L.D. 1211/13 to C.in C. Med.)
TRIUMPH.	Operation cancelled. Return to Malta. (N.O.I.C. Malta, 1656/13 to TRIUMPH).
Malta Air Report.	Combined services report Malta up to 1700 hours 13/2. Sunderland patrolled Western Ionian Sea sighted at 0927/13 Italian Hospital ship 12000 tons 36° N., 16° 14'E. course 25° speed 10 knots. 1807/12. One enemy aircraft Dropped bombs Luqa seriously damaging 1 Wellingtor slight damage 1 Whitley, no casualties, night Hurricane up no interception. 1408/13 R.C. by 5 German A/C, probably fr Comiso. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1715/13).
A/C Operation UNIQUE.	Swordfish aircraft will be operating from Kuriat to 034° 23' 011° 50' between about 0100 and 0200 A/14. UNIQUE is to retire to S.W. and remain to West of 011° 30' ur latter time. (Commdr(S) 1, 1755/13 to S/M's on Patrol)
Anti-Invation Device.	Your 2359/7. (Re contents of A.L.M./L.D 01407/40 being communicated to Turkish authorities.). No objection. (Head of M. 1920/13 to C.in C. Med.).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

13.8.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Mediterranean. (Contd.)

UPHOLDER.	USK report blank. Carry out (? previous) orders. (Commdr.(s) 1, 2037/13 to UPHOLDER).
Enemy Mines. Benghazi.	My 2230/12. (No trace in War Reg). Magnetic mines were laid by enemy aircraft in Benghazi harbour during night 12/13/8. (C.in C. Med., 2145/13).
Germans in Morocco.	From WAGON, fromireliable source in Casablanca. Arrival of Germans in French Morocco. (Telegram No. 2399). (Consul-General New York, 2325/13 to Admty).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

RANCHI	My 1244/3 RANCHI is to leave patrol so as to arrive Durban 1400Z/15. (C.in C. E.I., 0650Z/13, to RANCHI).
HILDA MOLLER.	A.M.1919/12 sailed 10/2 for Singapore and has been recalled to Colombo. (C.in C. E.I. 0722/13.).
Shipment of Prisoners.	C.in C. E.I. 0706/9 para 2 confirmed (P.S.T.O. India, 0821Z/13).
B.N.15.	Convoy arrival telegram Port Sudan portion arrived 13/2. (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 0850Z/13).
Operation "Composition" F.A.A. attack on Massawa.	Massawa attacked by 14 Albacores at 0130Z/13. Attack badly hampered by Cants. Result torpedo attack Northern Harbour. Ships of convoy not sighted. Probably one hit on ship at Jetty where S/M and supply ship reported by reconnaissance. One merchant ship sunk outside Northern Harbour. Second Merchantship possibly sunk either by torpedo or bomb. Bombing attack on destroyers in main Harbour. One probable hit on large destroyer. Heavy close range fire, especially in Northern Harbour. 2 aircraft did not return of which one reported forced landing engine trouble 330 Massawa 20 miles. (FORMIDABLE 1614/13).
Operation "Canvas", Kismayu, Mogadishu.	My 1926/12 (see Italian Merchant Ships) Situation report 1730Z/13 (i) CERES boiler defects repaired. (ii) CAPETOWN bombed off Brava, no damage. (iii) SHROPSHIRE fired on a merchant ship at Mogadishu several straddled. Results not observed. No reply from shore batteries (iv) KANDAHAR fired 3 salvoes at Kismayu Island. No reply from shore batteries. (V) SHROPSHIRE will demonstrate off Kismayu 0230Z/14 (VI) UCKERMARK is still afloat on even keel.

/ CERES ....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies. (Contd.).

Operation "Canvas", Kismayu Mogadishu. (contd.)	CERES will attempt tow to Mombasa tomorrow Friday (VII) One enemy ship 1,000 tons aground 4 miles south of Brava (VIII) Military progress report not yet received and above naval report is probably incomplete. (C.in C. E.I., 1820Z/13, to Admty.). My 1820/13. (1) Air reconnaissance Kismayu a.m./13 showed one ship scuttled in harbour, oil all over the harbour from tanks which have been drained. No A/A fire, and town apparently been evacuated. 2. KANDAHAR's three salvoes were to test if shore batteries still in action. (C.in C. E.I., 2020Z/13, to Admty., etc.).
Re attack on whale factory ships 15/1.	Believed Whale Factory Ships, Supply Ship and 11 catchers were taken by enemy raider on 15/1 about 700 men will have been made prisoner, and 150,000 barrels of whale oil captured. Opinion in South Georgia amongst local whalers is that these ships taken to either Prince Edward Island 047° S. 038° E., Crozet Island, 047° S. 050° E., or Kerguelen Island, 049° S. 07° E. where whale oil will be transferred to Japanese ships Japanese whale factory ships are known to have been working near 090° E. (D.N.I. 1937/13, to C.in C. E.I.).
GLASGOW.	Request GLASGOW be sailed for Aden as soon as possible after arrival at Suez at best speed. (C.in C. E.I., 2010Z/13 to S.B.N.O. Suez Canal.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

DANAE. Your 1805/12/11 and 1837/12. Request I may also retain DANAE due to sail 15/2. (C.in C. China, 0243Z/13).

Japanese Preparations. F.E.W. 17. At request of C.in C. F.E., F.E.Weekly Report will be supplemented by daily signal while present tension continues.
(c) Hainan. About 50 transports in November, no later reports. Warships available as escort to potential expeditionary force varies daily, but following important reinforcements from Japan are with South China Fleet: - 4 cruisers MOGAMI class, ASHIKUMA with First Destroyer Squadron, Japanese aircraft carrier HIRYU and one unit thought to be a battleship.
(d) Hong Kong about 6000 Japanese troops on border but recent operations offer no further strategic threat.
(h) Rumours of early recall of Japanese shipping as yet unconfirmed. Present traffic normal but only old ships trading west of Singapore. Numbers of Japanese returning home increasing slightly.
(C.O.I.S., Singapore, 0311Z/13, to Admty. etc.).

Flying-Boat Tenders. SHENKING to be requisitioned as flying boat tender. Second tender required, CITY OF DURBAN not suitable. (A.H.Q., Far East, 1028/13 to Air Ministry).

DANAE
DELHI
My 1805/12/11/1940.
Certain re-distribution of forces is under consideration. Sailing of DANAE to join South Atlantic Command is to be held in abeyance. Movement of DELHI to refit at Singapore is to continue.
(D.O.D.(F) 1709/13 to C.in C's, China, S.A., E.I.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.2.1941.
Thursday.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America and West Indies.

Ice Reports. Field of ice necessitating reduction in speed of ships reported 5/2 in (049° ?) 00' N. 050° 00' W. and 7/2 in position 045° 15' N. 060° 45' W.
(F.O. 3 B.S., 0933/13, to N.A. Escort Force).

CARADOC. CARADOC leaves Aruba 16/2 to rendezvous with DESPATCH for exercises.
(C.in C. A.W.I. 1142/13).

Australia.

SYDNEY Has arrived at Sydney after nearly a year of war service abroad. In many encounters with enemy, no member of crew lost. Navy Minister, Mr. Hughes, states that while abroad SYDNEY had steamed 80,000 miles, fought a score of actions against enemy craft and shore batteries, fired 4,000 shells, and withstood 60 bombing attacks. (The Times, 14/2/41).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NORBURG LARISSA ARKADIA	Istanbul 12/2 arrivals German NORBURG, German LARISSA. Departures German ARKADIA, Burgas. (Galatz, 1414/13).
BABITONGA	Santos reports BABITONGA is alongside ILHA BARBADE and receiving 986 tons diesel oil drums. Oil was discharged Santos from Montevideo by Brazilian ships CABADELLO and AIRGRETE. (S.O.(I) Montevideo 1424Z/13).
UCKERMARK.	Still afloat on an even keel. CERES will attempt to tow to Mombasa tomorrow. (C.in C. E.I., 1822Z/13 to Admty.).
ASKARI	Report of an enemy ship of 1,000 tons ashore 4 miles S. of Brava, 100' S.W. of Mogadishu, possibly refers to ASKARI, 590 G.T. (D.S. 528).

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

CAPO LENA.	Reported that CAPO LENA sailed from Vigo 2300/12. Destination unknown. (D.D.I.C. 0501/13, to F.O.C.N.A. etc.). Informing N. Atlantic Station (F.O.C.N.A., 0750/13).
ERNANI CHERCA	Your 0047/13 (Asking for name of ship mentioned in 1230/12). Name is Spanish Government Transport CONTRAMAESTRE CASADO. Vessel left last night, presumably (? for) Spain, loaded here glycerine, castor seed and castor oil ex enemy ERNANI, also tin ingots ex enemy CHERCA. Woermann lighters and personnel employed in loading cargo. (Consul, Las Palmas, 1200/13, to Admty.).
GERARCHIA.	Report of "large Italian military troopship" leaving Sal on 13/2 for North, if correct, probably refers to GERARCHIA, refuging in Cape Verde Islands since July 1940. (D.S.528)
GARIBALDI	5278 tons. Reported hit in dry dock during the recent bombardment of Genoa. (D.S.528).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 13.2.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

W.B. WALKER (Torpedoed 29/1). Sailed Tug SALVONIA to stern half of W.B. WALKER in position 56° 27' N. 09° 40' W. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0855/13, to C.in C. W.A.).

JAMAICA PRODUCER. Your 2209/12. Re alleged attack by submarine.
(a) 118° estimated from route
(b) U-boat
(c) Approximately ahead
(d) Turned 180° to starboard.
(e) No. U-boat crash dived.
(f) No.
(g) No.
Further information should be available later. (D. A/S. W., 1210/13, to C.in C. H.F.).

H.G.53. Gibraltar 13/2 1130, arrival VELOX with 26 survivors from ships of convoy H.G.53. Further signals follow.
(S.O.I., Gib., 1400/13, to Admty.).

ARTHUR F. CORWIN. British tanker, 10516 tons. (Straggler from Convoy H.X.106) Following has been read: 60.20 N., 17.11 W., ARTHUR F. CORWIN torpedoed. (? Scapa, 1429/13).
Detach one ship to assist CORWIN torpedoed in 060° 20' N. 017° 11' W. at 1529/13, ship detached to report name when well clear of convoy. (C.in C. W.A., 1603/13, to MALCOLM)
On arrival of MARAUDER and ST. OLAVES request you sail them forthwith in company to assistance of ARTHUR F. CORWIN, torpedoed 60° 20' N., 17° 11' W. at 1530 today.
(F.O.I.C. Greenock, 1709/13, to N.O.I.C. Aultbea).
Am proceeding to assistance of CORWIN.
(BURNHAM, 1715/13, to C.in C. W.A.).
Met EDWARD T. JOHNSON 060° 50' 015° 50'.
With CORWIN when attacked position given 35 miles too far West. Am proceeding full speed to correct position. KINGCUP and 3 trawlers escorting tanker 0900 8 knots.
(LA MALOUINE, 1746/13, to A.C.W.A.).

CORWIN on fire ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

13.2.1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked (Contd.)

ARTHUR F. CORWIN. (contd.).

CORWIN on fire sinking, no survivors found. Cannot now locate two other ships seen to be on fire near her.
LA MALOUINE searching area until daylight. Am proceeding to Loch Ewe to oil.
(BURNHAM, 2116/13, to C.in C. W.A.).

1756.

D/F at 1756/13 position of German U/Boat approx. 58° 30' N. 21° to 23° W.
Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1834/13 (amended 2155/13)
(C.in C. W.A. 1959/13 to ABERDEEN).
Arrival Tug ST. OLAVES.
(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 2327/13).

Submarines Reported.

2040/12.

Submarine reported by Greek Ministry of Marine, South East of Phleva 2040/12. Greek Torpedo Boat was sent out.
(N.A. Athens, 0118/13).

1600/12.

Ponta Delgada reports submarine in 037° 35' N. 025° 17' W. at 1500 G.M.T./12 Graded A.1. This may be TUNA.
(F.O.C.N.A. 0210/13, to N. Atlantic Station).
(F.O.C.N.A. 0222/13 to TUNA).

U-Boat estimated in position 54° 35' N. 14° 35' W. may be proceeding South.
(C.in C. W.A., 1135/13, to LONDONDERRY, FREESIA).

Estimated U Boat dispositions 1300/12
One German near 038° N. 021° 30' W.
One Italian possibly near Madeira. Italian steamship CAPO LENA 4820 tons left Vigo 1300 February 12th for unknown destination speed 12½ knots.
(Capt. S. 8. 1216/13, to TUNA).

/ 1447 ...

MOST SECRET.

War Diary. 15.2. 1941.
Thursday.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Submarines Reported. (Contd.)

1467. Message A.F.
Position 60° 20' N: 17° 11' W. at 1347/13.
G.M.T. (D.D.I.C. 1615/13).

1513. D/F at 1413/13 G.M.T.
Position of German U-Boat was in the vicinity of Finisterre. Unreliable fix.
(D.D.I.C. 1636/13.) (F.O.C.N.A., 1831/13 to N.A. Stn.).

By D/F at 1930/13 position of German U-boat approx. 47° N. 6° 30' W., possibly homeward bound. (D.D.I.C. 2017/13.).

Estimated U/B dispositions.

German.
One 40 miles of 56° N. 24° 30' W.
One 40 miles of 56° 30' N. 23° W.
One 40 miles of 55° 30' N. 18° 30' W.
One 60 miles of 54° 30' N. 14° 30' W. may move to southward.
One 60 miles of 52° 30' N. 22° 30' W.
Possibly one 90 miles of 61° N. 13° W.
One about 40° 30' N. 21° 30' W.

Italian.
3 about 45° N. 10° W. at 2034/12, probably moving to intercept H.G.53.
One N.W. Approaches.
(D.D.I.C. 1244/13.).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Home Commands.

U-Boat North of 60°N.

A Submarine has appeared north of 60°N; S.S. ARTHUR F CORWIN was torpedoed yesterday and there have been recent reports of sighting. BURNHAM, sent to assist A.F. CORWIN reported two other ships on fire near her which she was unable later to locate. The area is vital, not only because of congestion of shipping but also because it covers the route constantly used by the Fleet. C. in C. Home Fleet urges the need for effective ation at once.

Two Mine-sweeping Corvettes have been detailed as Escort to the U.K.-Gibraltar Convoy O.G. 53, there being at present no other Corvettes available with the necessary A/A armament.

Search for enemy cruiser.

NIGERIA and ARETHUSA, after fuelling at Reykjavik, sailed from there at 0810 this morning to resume their patrol of the ~~Denmark Strait~~. Iceland - Faeroes Passage.

German W/T activity suggests coastal movements on the French coast south of Brest which may be connected with the ADMIRAL SCHEER or an 8-inch Cruiser.

British Air Activity.

Blenheim A/C made a R/C today of Brest; and also of the S.W. Approaches as far as 7° 30'W. with the object of locating an Enemy Surface Raider. Visibility was very bad and nothing was sighted.

A Blenheim fighter on patrol today attacked and damaged with 20lb bombs a small tanker off Bergen. A Blenheim attacked and hit a ship off the Texel: the Texel was bombed by other Blenheims.

/Barges.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

British Air Activity. (contd).

Barges and docks were attacked at Calais at 0030 and Ostend docks this evening.

A. F.A.A. Swordfish bombed Dunkirk harbour this evening.

Enemy Air Activity.

Three F.W. aircraft carried out a R/C yesterday between 43° and 49° N. to as far West as 16° 40'W., sometimes reporting that no Naval Forces had been seen.

Several Convoys were attacked during the day without result. The Minelayer TEVIOT BANK was slightly damaged by a near miss off Flamborough Head just before midnight; operation B.S. 51 was abandoned in consequence. Unknown vessels were also attacked this morning off the Moray Firth and in the Atlantic 200 miles West of Malin Head. S.S. MOORLANDS (420 tons) was slightly damaged when attacked off Banff this morning.

French Trawler ELIZABETH MARIE in Convoy S.C. 21 was sunk by aircraft W.N.W. of Blacksod Bay today.

Incendiary bombs were dropped today on a convoy near the Longships Light, by an aircraft believed to be identical with one which had given the correct reply to challenge 3 minutes earlier.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Mining.

Many enemy aircraft were over the Humber before midnight 14/15 and minelaying on a minor scale is suspected. 4 Mines were exploded today by Sweepers off Spurn Point one in the Bristol Channel, one off Girdleness, and one 4 miles from the Bar Light Vessel at Liverpool; and off Harwich M.T.B. 41 struck a floating Mine this morning and sank, only 3 ratings being saved.

Operation P.W.4. — The mining operation on the Belgian coast by 3 M.T.B's was completed this morning.

Operation B.S.51 — TEVIOT BANK and WHITSHED left the Humber at 1730 to lay mines off the north-east coast. TEVIOT BANK returned after being damaged by air attack off Flamborough Head and the operation was postponed.

Aircraft minelaying. — Beauforts laid mines early this morning in Karsund Fiord near Haugesund under cover of a diversion by bombing.

Atlantic Convoys.

Protection of convoys against raiders. — Arrangements have been made for the reinforcement of the North Atlantic convoys. (H.G, O.G, H.X.) against surface raiders.

Attack on Convoy S.L.S.64. — Four British and 2 Greek ships of the convoy which was attacked by a raider on 12/2 have arrived at Funchal. One of the British ships, S.S. VOLTURNO is slightly damaged.

MARON, searching for survivors of S.L.S.64 reports that two torpedoes passed ahead of her this evening.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

A decision was arrived at to-day concerning the submarine patrol off Ponta Delgada.

Mediterranean.

Swordfish Attack on convoy.

A force of 4 Swordfish with torpedoes and flares last night attacked a convoy of 4 merchant vessels escorted by 2 destroyers on the Tripoli trade route, and torpedoed and probably sank one merchant ship.

Air raid on Malta.

Pim Farfa Hospital was damaged and some patients were killed and injured during an air raid last night.

Convoy for Benghazi.

Convoy A.N.1 left Alexandria P.M. to-day for Benghazi escorted by COVENTRY and 2 corvettes. Light forces are covering this convoy and the Piraeus convoy A.N.15.

Coast defence of Suda.

The Army are now taking over the coast defence of Suda from LIVERPOOL's landing party.

Valetta Harbour mined.

Mines were laid off Valetta Harbour during an air raid on the harbour between 1940 to 2340 today. The Grand Harbour has been closed; one mine is reported in the harbour.

Rhodes bombed.

3 Wellingtons last night bombed the aerodromes on Rhodes.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

SITUATION REPORT.

East Indies.

Operation "Canvas".

Kismayu was occupied by our Troops this afternoon. There are 3 scuttled ships there and possibly a fourth afloat. One is aground near Brava and it is thought 2 at Mogadishu. Coastal batteries at Kismayu and Muanga were bombarded at a range of 2 3000 yards, but there was no reply from the enemy. CAPETOWN and SHROPSHIRE were bombed by enemy aircraft from Merca which harassed our ships.

America & West Indies.

In view of the Japanese situation, DIOMEDE, who has been patrolling off Talcahuano, has been ordered to move north and establish a patrol off Callao when she leaves Valparaiso.

Australia.

Mines have been swept up in 33°17' 30" S. 151° 47'E. (about 70 miles East of C.Howe Victoria) S.S. NIBLIN was sunk near this position on 5/12/40.

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

2 Corvettes for Gibraltar Convoys.

Your 2248/10. VERBENA and DELPHINIUM are detailed for O.G. 53. Both of these are fitted for mine sweeping but there are no corvettes at present available not so fitted who have requisite A/A armament.
2. Intend to relieve VERBENA and DELPHINIUM as soon as more suitable corvettes are available.
(C. in C. W.A. 1152/14 to Adty).

Anti-U-Boat Measures.

Need for Hunting Group with Air R/C.
(C. in C. H.F. 1154/14 to C. in C. W.A)
See U-Boat Campaign.

KEPPEL.

As BOADICEA has sailed to join your command propose KEPPEL be transferred to W.A. Command. (C. in C. W.A. 1306/14 to C. in C.H.F

Defence of U.K.

Scapa A/A Defences.

Your 2338/13 and my 1802/11. Guns are kept at very short notice and warning at 8 miles was received by G.L. Set continually on look out to the North West for this purpose. There was no appreciable delay in opening fire and guns within range fired 140 rounds.
My 1802/11 to C. in C. H.F. was intended to emphasise that until our R.D.F. cover to the North West has been improved additional precautions are necessary in the Fleet in this direction. These precautions have already been taken.
(A.C.O.S. 1142/14 to Adty).

DELUGE.

At 1130/14 (D.C. 1154/14) At 2300/14 (D.C. 2345/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

BOREAS.	Arrived Scapa 2200/13. (A.C.O.S. 0052/14).
11th M/S F.	Sailing postponed owing to weather. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven 0400/14)
LA CAPRICIEUSE (R/V with SNAPPER).	My 2213/13. Return to the Clyde. (S.2. 0902/14 to LA CAPRICIEUSE).
5th D.F.	KELLY, JACKAL, KASHMIR, and KIPLING will be required to sail about noon tomorrow. (C. in C. W.A. 1106/14). One ship of 5th D.F. is to proceed with despatch to Plymouth. (D.O.D.H. 1129/14). Your 1129/14 JACKAL detailed. (D.S. 1134/14 to Adty).
UNBEATEN.	Intend sailing at 1830/15 diving by day. Route. E.T.A. Needles 0800/16. Request escort to meet her. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1441/14).
Northern Patrol.	Trawler lines tonight. 5 Trawlers. (A.C.O.S. 1539/14).
RESOLUTION.	F.O.C.N.A. 1246/13 and 1022/14, and C. in C. W.A. 1905/4. 1 A/A protection is of great importance. 2. Request therefore you arrange with C. in C. W.A. for one HUNT, or if possible two, from Portsmouth to meet RESOLUTION in accordance with C. in C. W.A. 1905/4 para 4. (D.O.D. H. 1547/14 to C. in C. Portsmouth).

/SURCOUF.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (contd).

SURCOUF, for Halifax.

My 1914/13/1. SURCOUF is to be sailed on 19/2 for Halifax routed as follows. SURCOUF will enter A. and W.I. Station at 1200/25/2.
(F.O.S. 1549/14 to S.3).

0.23.

Leave patrol after dark today routed as follows to arrive Gap A 0400/17.
(S.9. 1601/14 to 0.43).

S/M's.

Positions at 0800/15 and Movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1724/14 and 2129/14).

TEVIOT BANK.
WHITSHED.

Sailed 1730.
(F.O. Number 1745/14/2).

TALISMAN.

Leave patrol now through 048° 22'N. 006° 02'W. and R/V with escort in 325°. Pendeen Light eight miles at 0800/16.
(S.2. 1908/14 to TALISMAN).
My 1908. Your escort is LA CAPRICIEUSE.
(S.2. 1923/14 to TALISMAN).

Operations.

Patrol of Denmark Strait.

NIGERIA and ARETHUSA sailed 0810 G.M.T.
(F.O. Iceland 0720/14).

Jan Mayern.

Re. W/T communication.
(A.C.N.S. H. 1203/14 to F.O.I.C. Iceland).

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity.

Patrols.	C. in C. H.F. 1553/13. Following patrols arranged today. R.2. a.m. by one Sunderland. FUGLE (as in my 1931/10) p.m. by one Sunderland. (C. in C. Rosyth 0016/14).
	Air Patrol today in addition to my 0016/14. UNST, STAB, reconnaissance Kristiansand (S. Norway) South. These are in operation now. (C. in C. Rosyth 1030/14). My 0016/14. Patrol FUGLE cancelled owing to weather. (C. in C. Rosyth 1124/14).
	My 0016/14. Now Fugle will be flown during daylight by two Sunderlands. First Sunderland arriving on patrol at 0900/15. Second Sunderland about 1500/15. (C. in C. Rosyth 2116/15 to NIGERIA, ARETHUSA).
R.C. of Brest & S.W. Approaches.	C. As soon as weather permits one section of Blenheims to carry out reconnaissance of Brest. If no enemy cruiser is present aircraft to sweep down track 232° T. as far as 07° 30'W. and thence to Base, object to locate enemy surface raider. (H.Q.C.C. 0928/14 to 19 Group). Blenheim Aircraft will be carrying out reconnaissance of Brest and S.W. Approaches to Kerry Head today. (F.O.S. 1016/14 to S/M's Area B).
Minelaying Operations. S.N. 7 B. S.N. 68A.	My 1446/14. Request air R.C. to cover approach of enemy surface force towards R.A.M.L. from Eastward during daylight 17/2. (C. in C. H.F. 1448/14 to C. in C. Rosyth).
Occult 12.	F.O.6 X 165 14th Feb. Occult 12 commencing operations 18th Feb. as detailed in S.D. 214. (Air Ministry 0940/14).

/801.....

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

14.2.1941.
Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (contd).

801 Squadron.

801 Squadron at an I.E. of twelve aircraft is to be moved forthwith to St. Merryn.
(5th S.L. 1315/14 to A.C.O.S).

Own A/C fired on 10/1.

Following from Air Ministry:- Begins. X914 12/2. Without prejudice to current or subsequent action request you submit any information available concerning Wellington 1 C.T. 2460 149 Squadron which was fired at by surface vessel over Thames Estuary at 0130/10/1. 1733/12. Ends.
2. Request any information available may be forwarded.
(D. of L.D. 1633/14 to C. in C. Nore).

Enemy Air Activity.

R.C. of S.W. Approaches

3 F.W. Aircraft carried out a reconnaissance as far as 16° 40'W. between 43° and 49° today 13/2.
Comprehensive weather reports including the state of the sea were made and in many instances they reported no naval forces observed.
(D.D.I.C. 0004/14).

Unknown Ship.

Automatic AAAA signal heard at 1005 strength 3 bearing Wick 161°.
(Lyness 1009/14).

MOORLANDS.

(British, 420 Tons) Unknown Vessel being bombed off Banff 1045/14.
(Lyness, Recd. 1150/14).
MOORLANDS on passage from Dundee to Lyness with cargo of stone and sand entered Buckie Harbour at 1225/14 after being attacked by a single enemy aircraft at 1045/14 2 miles North of Sands End Bay. Aircraft dropped one bomb which fell 25 feet from starboard bow and machine gunned vessel. No casualties but vessel is making water in forward compartment. Skipper states aircraft was twin engined with single tail fin.
(C. in C. Rosyth 1431/14).

/Unknown.....

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Unknown Ship. S.O.S. in 54° 50' N. 14° 10' W.
Crew has abandoned ship (Text in German or Dutch.).
(Valentia Radio 1135/14) (Port Patrick Radio 1155/14).
Detach one ship to assist unknown ship bombed in 054° 50' N. 014° 10' W. at 1237/14. (C.in C. W.A. 1312/14 to VANOC).

CAPE RODNEY. (British, 4500 tons). N.O.I.C. Leith reports at 1800/14 CAPE RODNEY in ballast anchored Leith Roads. After hold flooded, will be pumped out by tomorrow. At 1830/13 ship sustained damage by near miss 10 feet on starboard quarter causing 4 inch gun to go overboard and leak in after hold.
Two other bombs dropped astern of ship did not explode.
Ship was also machine gunned and Hotchkiss gun was hit.
No casualties. Ship opened fire with Hotchkiss. Results uncertain.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1929/14).

Unknown Ship. Unknown vessel bombed in 57° 5' N. 9° 7' W.
(Port Patrick Radio 1350/14).
Proceed forthwith to assist unknown vessel in 57° 05' N. 06° 08' W. at 1459 today.
(C.F.O.I.C. Greenock 1935/14 to SALVONIA, SOUTHERN PRIDE).

Convoy E.N. Odd. Air raid imminent USAGE. (Lyness 1702/14).
Fighters being sent. (Lyness 1704/14).
Negative Air Raid imminent USAGE.
(Lyness 1724/14).

3 Tankers, 1 M/V, 2 A/S Trawlers) Help LOOSE 270° Landsend 2.
(DERBY COUNTY 1920/14).

TEVIOT BANK. Injured by near miss.
(WHITSHED 2328/14 to N.O.I.C. Humber).

/ Convoy F.N. Even. ...

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.).

Convoy F.N. Even. — Convoy AGENT, being bombed. My position 52° 51' N. 1° 43' E. course 343° speed 8 knots. 2345/14.

Convoy F.N.7. — Being attacked by aircraft. My position 54° 18' N. (?longitude). (SOUTHDOWN 2352/14).

WHITSHED. — Am being attacked by Air Attack, my position 54° 11' N. (?longitude). (WHITSHED 2355/14).

Mining.

M.T.B.41 (Mined and sunk). — M.T.B.41 in 51° 57' 30" N. 2° 27' 30" E. from initial report struck a floating mine blowing to pieces and sinking in a few seconds. Three ratings only saved. (F.O.I.C. Harwich 1031/14).

Bristol Channel. — Acoustic mine exploded by S.A. gear 339° distant 2.45 miles from Flatholm Light. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1101/14).

Obstruction on 12/2. — Master of S.S. RUDBY reports that at 1945/12 he struck an obstruction between 7 and 7A buoys. Ship had sailed from Ipswich to join FN5 - was not damaged. (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1219/14).

P.W.4. (Belgian Coast). — Operation completed. (C.in C. Nore 1420/14).

/ SN. 7 B. ...

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

S.N. 7 B. and S.N. 68 A. — R.A.M.L's 0926/12 Para. D.2. Delete C.S.18 in EDINBURGH and RODNEY. Substitute AURORA and REPULSE. (11) AURORA is to rendezvous with R.A. Minelayers at 0930/16. (111) REPULSE screened by three destroyers is to sail P.M./15th to cover operation. (C.in C. H.F. 1446/14).

Sweep of Gap A. — My 1911/13 and my 1017/14. In view of weather report from Aberdeen operations postponed a further 24 hours. S.P.5th M/S Flotilla inform SPEEDY. Am remaining at Fraserburgh. (S.O. 1st M/S. F. 1729/14).

Aberdeen Area. — One drifting German X Mine has been sunk half a mile east of Girdleness in 15 fathoms. Mine appears in new condition. (N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1758/14 and 1852/14).

Spurn Point. — The following four mines exploded today. Particulars. (F.O. Humber 1840/14).

Liverpool. — Mine report to 1800/14. One detonated by L L in 275° Bar Light Vessel 4 miles. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool 2248/14).

Humber. — Many enemy aeroplanes over Humber tonight Friday. Suspected minelaying on a minor scale. (F.O. Humber 2345/14).

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Intelligence.

Biscay Coast.	German W/T activity suggests coastal movements on French coast south of Brest. This may be in connection with ADMIRAL SCHEER or an 8 inch cruiser. (D.D.I.C. 1421/14).
Nickel Ore.	Information from two members of crew of Finnish WIPUNEN at different times indicates clearly nickel ore P is now being transported in considerable quantities from Finland by road to Kirkeness. Full report will follow. (C.C.S.O. Kirkwall 2210/14.).

MOST SECRET

War Diary

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Friday

HOME COMMANDS

Shipping and Convoys

General

Submarines, as Convoy Escorts.	Policy re use of submarines in existing ocean convoys for anti-raider operations. (D.A./S.W., 1040/14 to F.O.S., F.O.C.N.A., B.S. 3.) See Operations Volume.
	Position of submarines in a convoy when a close escort is present. (D.A./S.W. 1141/14 amending A.L.M. 04446/40 of 29/3/1940.)
Darkening Ship.	Reference AUSONIA's 143/23 of 28/12 the method employed of enforcing the darkening of the ships appears to be so successful that it is suggested that it should be adopted by other ocean escorts. (D.T.D., 1122/14 to R.A. (3)
Straggling	Admty. 1713/29/1. Straggling has become so grave a danger that it is considered that the arrival of the convoy at the rendezvous complete is of greater importance than arrival on time with ships missing. (D.T.D., 1123/14 to A.I.C., 47 etc.)
U-Boat Disposition Signals	Capt. D. Liverpool reports. Recent U-Boat disposition signals have not been received by convoy escorts until the following morning. Request they may be transmitted as soon as possible after being originated in order that early action may be taken when necessary by S.O. escorts. 1130/14 ends. (C. in C., W.A., 1526/14 to Admty.)
Ice Report	Following from Ottawa. Field ice necessitating reduction in speed of ships reported 5/2 in position 49° 00' N., 50° 00' W., and 7/2 in position 45° 15 N., 60° 45' W., (D.T.D. 1226/14 to N.C.S.O.'s)

/Diversions...

MOST SECRET

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HOME COMMANDS

Shipping & Convoys

General-Contd.

Diversions — A.M. 1629/24/1. Masters of ships should be given an approximate estimation of the length of their voyages based on a diversion taking them north of 59° N. (D.T.D., 2027/14, to N.C.S.O., Freetown)

Coastal Convoys

O.B.C. 286. — Sailed 0325/13, escort ERICA, 18 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde, 0335/14 amended 0928/14) List of ships (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1400/14)

F.N. 7. — Position, thick fog. (SOUTHDOWN, 0350/14) Proceeding. (SOUTHDOWN 0858/14) Destinations. (N.C.S.O. Humber 1620/14)

F.S. 10. — Position, thick fog. (VORTIGERN, 0522/14) Arrivals (N.C.S.O. Humber 1744/14)

W.N. 83. — Position. (ELLESMERE, 0540/14)

O.B. 286 — Sailed 0615/14 unescorted (N.C.S.O. Belfast 0901/14) List. (N.C.S.O., Mersey, 1057/14)

E.N. 71. — Addition and absentees. (C. in C., Rosyth 0910/14) CURACOA reports no trawlers. (C. in C., W.A., 1256/14 to PIROUETTE) Absentees (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1126/14)

F.N. 5. — Arrived 0830/14. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 0932/14) Tyne ships arrivals. (F.O.I.C., Tyne, 0946/14) (N.C.S.O. Sunderland 1030/14, N.C.S.O., Humber, 0950/14)

F.S. 9. — Position, 22 ships for London. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1000/14) Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0948/14)

F.N. 6. — Arrived 1000/14. (N.C.S.O. Methil, 1012/14 Arrivals (N.C.S.O., Sunderland, 1030/14, N.C.S.O. Humber, 0948/14)

/F.N. 8.....

MOST SECRET.

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HOME COMMANDS.

Coastal Convoys Contd.	Shipping and Convoys Contd.
F.N.8.	Sailed 0900/14, 16 ships. (N.C.S.O. Thames 1043/14.) List. (N.C.S.O. Thames, 1113/14.) 11 ships to join at 62 Buoy, (N.C.S.O. Humber 1721/14.)
E.N.72.) W.N.85.)	JASON as additional A/A escort. (C. in C. Rosyth, 0945/14.) E.N.72, time, escorts, 18 ships, codes. (N.C.S.O. Methil 1215/14.)
F.S. & F.N.	Forecast of sailings and escorts. (C. in C. Rosyth 2017/14.)
O.B.O. 286.	Sailed 0620/14, Escort list of ships. (N.C.S.O. Oban 0915/14.)
F.S.8.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0948/14.)
F.N.4,3.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Humber 0950/14.)
O.B.C.287.	2355/16, 5 ships, (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1105/14.)
W.N.85.	Code word "Rusty" (C. in C. Rosyth 1259/14.) 1924/14, 20 ships. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 2015/14.) See also E.N.72.
E.N.70.	Arrivals. (N.C.S.O. Oban 1431/14.)
F.S.11.	Sailed (F.O.I.C. Tyne 1507/14.) 7 ships from Humber to join at 62 D buoy (N.C.S.O. Humber 1716/14) List of ships. (F.O.i/c. Tyne 1718/14, C. in C. Rosyth 1333/14.)
W.N.81.	Non arrivals (N.C.S.O. Methil 1610/14.)

/C.E.25.....

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HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping and Convoys Contd.

Coastal Convoys Contd.

C.E.25. Sailed, less L'INCOMPRISE. (C. in C. Portsmouth 1644/14.) Destinations (N.C.S.O. Portsmouth 1747/14.)

11. M.V's. To sail 1830/15. (N.C.S.O.Dartmouth 2258/14.)

O.B.283. List of ships. (N.C.S.O. Aultbea 2300/14.)

Ocean Convoys.

COPTIC. Sailing for Capetown. Route. (N.C.S.O. Clyde 1283/14.)

S. C. 20. 48 hours at rendezvous heavy weather. Stragglers ahead of convoy bombed and sunk DIONE II, CALAFATIS and IOANNIS M. EMBIRICOS. Torpedoed and sunk MAPLECOURT. Convoy was not attacked. EMPIRE ENGINEER not yet reported. (D.T.D. 1636/14. to N.S.H.Q. Ottawa.)

H.G.51. Your 1704/12. All ships HG.51. arrived U.K. except HOMESIDE which sprung a leak and sank and NEVA which broke convoy and proceeded Lisbon.(D.T.D. 1637/14. to F.O.C.N.A.)

?H X 106. Reported at 1700/14 (?055°) 28' N.029° 32'W.000° 9 knots. Convoy dispersed by successive gales. Have lost touch with (?Commodore), passed through and searched vicinity of his rendezvous today and collected one ship. SAN AMADO now in company. Commodore has not repetition not received Admty.1854/10 or your 1147/13. (LACONIA 1840/14 to C. in C.W.A.

/SALADIN.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Shipping.

Ocean Convoys.Contd.

H. X. 106. SALADIN as S.O. local escort during absence of MALCOLM and BURNHAM. (MALCOLM, 1051/14.)

My 1554 and my 1633 corrected position of Convoy H X 106 reported by aircraft at 1406/14 is 061° 10' N, 016° 30' W. Ships should adjust their search as necessary. (C.in C. W.A. 1916/14 to SALADIN.)

H. X. 108. RODNEY to cover. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2332/14.) See FOREIGN STATIONS, Raider Attack on O.L.S.64.)

Military Convoys. Shipping and Convoys.

W. S. 6. Messages for W.S.6, Force H and RODNEY and escort will continue to be routed in accordance with W/T organisation for Home Station while temporarily in A and W.I Station and operating with W.S.6. (D.S.D. 1145/14, to S.O. Force H,etc.)

1. My 1909/12. It is intended that on relief as escort to W.S.6. by Force H. RODNEY should proceed to cover convoy H.X.108. 2. RODNEY subsequently to leave convoy in 25°W. and return to Scapa as ordered by you. 3. Request your remarks. (A.C.N.S.H. 1200/14 to C. in C. H.F.)

Your 1200/14. Concur. (C. in C. H.F. 1957/14 to Adty.)

W. S. 6B. Admiralty 1335/11c, para. three. MAURITIUS is detailed and is to sail from Scapa to arrive Clyde p.m./16. (C. in C. H.F.1450/14.)

COLUMBIA. Admiralty1040. Request sailing of S.S. COLUMBIA to Dundee be cancelled.(F.O.S. 1258/14 to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

MOST SECRET.

War Diary.

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CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS.

NORTHERN PRINCESS. Proceed with all despatch to assist NORTHERN PRINCESS position 061° 03' N. 011° 04' W.
(S.O. Trawlers H.P. 0011/14 to NORTHERN CHIEF).
Have contacted. (NORTHERN CHIEF 0940/14).
Position 061° 06' N. 012° 31' W. by observation. (NORTHERN CHIEF 1050/14).

PAXFLEET. (British, 843 tons) Coastguard Blakeney Point reports refloated at 0740 and proceeding N.W. in tow of tug.
(F.O.I.C. Yarmouth 0825/14).

BEAUMANOIR. (French, 2324 tons) At anchor in Dunnet Bay reports unable to make good engine room defects without shore assistance. Consider undesirable for her to remain in exposed anchorage. Suggest Metal Industries be informed and vessel towed to Scapa for repairs.
(N.C.S.O. Kirkwall 1025/14).

PRINS FREDERICK HENDRIK Arrived 1135. (N.C.S.O. Barry 1201/14).

BELGIA (Grounded 13/2). Arrival KENIA and ST. MELLONS towing derelict S.S. "BELGIA" and PM/S DUCHESS OF MONTESAY, at 1808.
(F.O.I.C. Harwich 1817/14).

Wreck on Trapegeer Bank. M.T.B's on operation F.W.4 report a wreck of ship about 10,000 tons on West end of Trapegeer Bank 200° 1 mile approximately from L.E. Buoy. Wreck not there on last visit. Photographic reconnaissance of this area will be carried out as soon as weather permits. No. 1 E Buoy no longer in position. (C.in C. Nore 1544/14 and 2231/14).

/ ST. LAURENT ...

CASUALTIES AND DEFECTS. (Contd.)

ST. LAURENT.	Has frame buckled marked fore magazine, hull leaking. A/S out of action dome suspected. 7. (OTTAWA 1631/14).
JAMAICA PLANTER.	(British, 4098 tons). Intend to make use of H.M. Tug SEINE to assist in salvage of JAMAICA PLANTER a.m./15th. (F.O.I.C. Cardiff 2000/14).
ATTENTIF.	(Rescue Tug). Position about three miles east of Girdleness. Unable to cope with inrush of water unable keep steam. Lights failing. Send immediate assistance. (Cleethorpes Radio 2028/14). Lying with 2 anchors down Girdleness Light bearing S.W. 3 miles. Fires drawn and no lighting. She appears to be keeping her position. (ATTENTIF 2342/14 to N.O.I.C. Aberdeen).
DROMARA. (Foundered).	(British, 723 tons). S.S. DROMARA on passage from Londonderry to London after passing Duncansby Head shipped big sea causing cargo to shift giving her a very heavy starboard list. Armed trawler LADY ROSEMARY contacted and escorted her as far as Wick. Unable to enter Wick owing to her draught and state of sea she carried on towards Invergordon with Wick lifeboat standing by but a couple of miles south she had to be abandoned, drifted ashore, and foundered at foot of Old Man of Wick at 1630/14/2 where she now lies a total loss. Wick lifeboat took off crew 13 all told and returned to Wick. (R.N.O. Wick, 2330/14).

MOST SECRET.

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FOREIGN STATIONS.

Attack by Raider on Convoy S.L.S.64 on 12/2.

Raider said to be Hipper Class.

CAMITO rescued from rafts in 37° 14' N, 21° 08W. at 1400/13, some survivors from British SHREWSBURY, WARLABY and Greek PERSEUS of convoy SLS.64. They state emphatically from silhouettes that raider was cruiser of HIPPER class. (D.D.I.C. 0815/14, to C. in C. H.F. etc.)

VOLTURNO arrived.

British VOLTURNO, Convoy Freetown to Oban, arrived Funchal. Attacked 037° 10' N, 021° 20' W. daybreak 12/2, by Pocket Battleship Type. No casualties, Slight damage above waterline. Three other ships expected here. (N.C.S.O. Funchal, 0904/14, to Admty.

Raider said to be BLUCHER. Class.

Raider which attacked S.L.S.64 probably BLUCHER class cruiser. (F.O.C.N.A, 1136/14, to N. Atlantic Stn.)

4 ships arrived.

Additional to my 0904/14, arrival four British ships, (a) VOLTURNO, (b) BLAIRATHOLL, (c) CLUNEPARK, (d) MARGOT. Arrival two Greek Ships.(e) ANNA MAZARAKI (f) POLYKTOR all from Convoy No. S.L.S. 64. Damage (a) Slight (e) and (f) small engine trouble. List of survivors follow also names of eight missing from? (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1644/14.)

REGISTAN to join search.

REGISTAN decypher Adty., 1801/12, and 1801/13, and join search. (F.O.C.N.P. 1750/14 to Western Patrol.)

/MARON.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

Attack by Raider on Convoy Contd.

MARON. Missed by 2 torpedoes 1845/14, (See U-BOAT CAMPAIGN, 14/2, and also 0154/15.)

Asking description of raider. Your 0904/14, please endeavour to obtain full description of raider and telegraph to me repeated Adty. (Gibraltar 1857/14, to N.C.S.O. Funchal.)

Raider said to be Battle Cruiser. Your 1857/14, from Masters interviewed independently with O U publications 6118 German Battle cruiser SCHARNHORST type seems probable. (N.C.S.O. Funchal 1954/14.)

Orders to SHEFFIELD KENYA. V.C.N.S. 2005/14, C.S.10, 2301N/14, See Operations Volume.

Orders to O.B.V.'s. Adty., 1801/12, and CAMITO 2100/13. Organise O.B.Vs. named to search area throughout 15/2. 2. At dark 15th O.B.V.s are to return to patrol or to Gibraltar should the number and condition of survivors make this necessary. (V.C.N.S. 2006/14. to CAVINA.)

Unless otherwise ordered by F.O.C.N.P. resume patrol forthwith. (F.O.C.N.A.2234/11 to O.B.V's.) Cancelled See 0239/15.

Orders to RODNEY. My 1909/12. On relief as escort to W.S.6, by Force H RODNEY is to proceed to cover convoy H.X.108. Estimated p.c. and s. of convoy at 1200/17. 54° 40' N, 37° 10' W, 038°, 8½ knots. (Route) RODNEY is to leave convoy in 25° W. and return to Scapa as ordered by C. in C. H.F. (A.C.N.S.H 2332/11

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

North Atlantic.

RESOLUTION delayed.	My 1246/13. Sailing of RESOLUTION postponed owing to heavy south-westerly weather. (F.O.C.N.A. 1022/14, to C. in C. W.A.)
ARK ROYAL FURIOUS.	F.O.C.N.A. 0958/28/1, and S.O. Force H. 1412/28/1. Decision re transfer of a/c squadrons. (D.N.A.D, 1404/14, to F.O.C.NA
Air patrols.	1 routine A/S Patrol. 1 moonlight A/S Patrol Area covered Straits. No further flying weather. (200 Group 1700/14.)
WISHART VIDETTE.	Gibraltar 1910/14, departures WISHART VIDETTE (E.T.A. at Freetown. (Route.) (F.O.C.N.A. 1956/14.)
Germans in Morocco.	My No. 6674/13/2. Following C.3. Germans boast they will control French Air Force in Morocco. French Air Force said to be anxious to reach Gibraltar given opportunity and sufficient petrol. (Telegram No. 7750.)(Wagon, Tangier, 2110/14, to Admty.)
Destroyer reported.	One unknown destroyer reported at 1730/14, in 037° 32' N, 009° 10' W. course South. (F.O.C.N.A. 2350/14, to TUNA.)

MOST SECRET.

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Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic.

EMPIRE TROOPER.

Your 1409/9, and H.S.R. Freetown's 1102/14/1, to D. of S.T. only. (Accommodation.) (D.S.T. 0154/14, to C. in C. S.A.)

CUBA. PORT DE TROYON.

Your 1441/9, CUBA was transmitted in your 0145/3, as MONSIGNORE LAGO. Your 8041/12, as CUBA is urgently required in U.K. for conversion to troop transport could PORT DE TROYON be used instead of CUBA? (D.S.T. 0155/14 to C. in C. in C.S.A.) Your 0155/14. CUBA has been referred to in four signals on this subject to D. of S.T. all arrangements have been made, too late for alteration and CUBA sails 15/2. Further PORT DE TROYON is not suitable. (C. in C. S.A. 1151/14, to D. of S.T.)

SPRYBANK overdue.

SPRYBANK due Port Elizabeth 10th from Cochin not arrived. (S.O. (1) Capetown 0922/14.)

Shipping routes Signals.

My 1921/9. Routes in shipping information signals will be given to nearest degrees only. Discretion may be used in omitting positions on route near the point on arrival and departure. (C. in C. S.A.1117/14 to S.A. Station Sqn., etc.)

CORNWALL.

Re ammunition to be re-embarked for return passage to U.K. (D.T.S.D. 1139/14, to F.O.I.C. Simonstown.)

/EVINOS.....

MOST SECRET.

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War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

South Atlantic Contd.

EVINOS overdue. — Greek EVINOS due Durban 9/2, from Fremantle not arrived. (S.O.(1) Capetown 1220/14.)

FURIOUS. — Projected employment. (V.C.N.S.1403/14.) See Operations Volume.

SANDEFJORD. — Request reason for non sailing of tanker SANDEFJORD in S.L.65. Arrived Freetown 27/1. There is a shortage of homeward bound tankers. (D.T.D. 1654/14, to H.C.S.O. Freetown.)

Route for S.L. Escort. — Request new route and rendezvous for local escort for combined S.L. convoy, since S.L.S. ships will be unable to steam the additional distance and can only make 6½ knots under most favourable circumstances. (F.O. 10. C.S., 1700N/14. to C. in C. S.A.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mediterranean.

Orders to TRIUMPH UTMOST.

Both to proceed to Malta. Route, etc. (Cdr. (S) 1 1158/14 to TRIUMPH.)

Taras.

Re their employment. (C. in C. Med. 1250/14 to Adty.,)

Swordfish attack on convoy.

Torpedo attack by one Swordfish with flares and three Swordfish with torpedoes on Tripoli (Africa) trade route night of 13/14 Feb., on convoy about four merchant vessels and two escorting destroyers in 035° 00' N, 012° 24' E, at 0125 on course 15°. One definite hit claimed and another possible hit. After attack 3 merchant vessels and one destroyer proceeded leaving second destroyer where attack was making smoke. No sinking ship or wreckage observed.

2. The reports of the aircraft participating were conflicting as visibility was not good and A/A fire from destroyers was intense. Consider there were probably four merchant vessels in convoy one of which was sunk.

3. Another force of four Swordfish despatched to intercept failed to locate the target. (N.O.I.C. Malta 1431/14. H.Q. R.A.F., Malta 2245/14.)

Coast defence.

Suda, Toruk, Benghazi, Present situation (C. in C. Med. 1628/14.)

Greece Enemy Propaganda.

For C.O.S. from C. in C. Med. C. in C. M.E, and A.O.C. in C. State of British propaganda in Greece is causing us concern. Unless something done immediately danger that every growing fear of Germany may be seriously exploited to our disadvantage. (C. in C. M.E, 1810/14, to W.O.)

/Tobruk.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mediterranean Contd.

Tobruk, Derna, Sollum, Benghazi.	State of clearance for traffic. (D.O.R., 15/2.) (D.S. 529)
Air Raid on Malta.	Night 13/14/5, enemy aircraft bombed island individually causing slight damage and 9 casualties, Pimearfa Hospital. (H.Q. R.A.F. Malta, 1815/14.)
Spain.	Political situation, (N.A. Madrid, 2047/14. to D.N.I.)
Convoys A.N.15. A.C. one ULSTER PRINCE.	F.O. 2/i.c. Med. Fleet with YORK BONAVENTURE AJAX Capt. (D) 14 and 27th Dn. Dest. split in Aegean and covered A. N. 15, and A.C. one. A.N.15, 5 hours late left Alexandria and Port Said 14th for Piraeus (route) escort CALCUTTA, GREYHOUND, WATERHEN, HERO. A.C. One left Alexandria 14th (route) for Benghazi escort (? COVENTRY), SALVIA GLOXINIA, SOUTHERN MAID and ISLES. ULSTER PRINCE with H.M.S. ILEX and H.M.S. HASTY leave Alexandria P.M./16 for Suda Bay and Piraeus (route) Inshore Squadron at Benghazi S.N.O. inshore Squadron in CHAKLA. (C. in C. Med. 2052/14.)
Air Operations.	Night 12/13 Feb. 2 Wellingtons dropped 5,000 lbs of bombs on naval and commercial harbour Rhodes. Germans dropped 8 mines Benghazi. (H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. 1148/14.

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies.

Raider report.

INGE MAERSK made Q distress signals at 0158Z/14, in 015° 57' N, 058° 43' E, and word suspect. (C. in C. E.I. 0224/14, to E.I. Squadron except Force T.)

Following has been read, DISGUISED RAIDER, following intercepted at 0200 G.M.T/14, QQQQQ 1557N, 58. 43E, in German suspect de VWC or VMK(VWC Calcutta Radio VMK??) (Alexandria W/T, No. T.O.O./Rec'd. 1120/14.)

My 0224/14, passed to Adty., message cancelled at 0825 Z/ 14. Cancellation genuine. (C. in C. E.I. 1444/14, to E.I. Squadron less Force T, 1446/14, to Adty.)

CITY OF ROUBAIX.

My 1830/12. CITY OF ROUBAIX, arrived Port Sudan, fire under control (C. in C. E.I, 04282/14, to Admty.)

Operations "Canvas" & "Composition"

My 2020/13. Operation "CANVAS" (i) Kismayu and Muanga batteries were bombarded at a range about 23,000 yards a.m./14. No reply from shore batteries. (ii) Military are accelerating programme (iii) SHROPSHIRE was bombed when at (Mogadisha?) no damage. (iv) CAPETOWN was bombed at 06152/14, no damage. (C. in C. E.I.,0820/14 to Admty., Amended 1606Z/16.)

My 0820/14, (1) Military advanced H.Q.are being moved to Amfadu and they are reconnoitring Kismayu with ground troops. (ii) General situation appears to be that Italians have abandoned Kismayu and are moving what they can to Mogadishu.(iii) UCKERMARCK sank at 1230z/14, after having been in tow for 4 hours. (iv) State of Enemy shipping is believed to be (a) Captured 6 (included UCKERMARCK) (b) At Kismayu 3 scuttled and possibly a 4th afloat (c) Near Brava one aground (d).At Mogadishu 2 (Subject to confirmation.)

/One was.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

East Indies Contd.

One was bombarded by SHROPSHIRE 13/2, (e) Unaccounted for TANNENFELS and one tug. (v) Enemy bombers from Merca are a nuisance to H.M. Ships (vi) SHROPSHIRE successfully bombarded motor transport and encampments near Brava on 13/2. (C. in C. E.I. 1010Z/14.)

Kismayu was occupied by our troops at 1415/14. (See 0648/15.) Note in D.S.529: Kismayu was British until transferred to the Italians on 29/6/1925 in virtue of the Treaty of 15/7/1924.

Convoy B.S.F.1½ — Sailing telegram B.S.F.1½ Port Sudan portion (ii) 0330Z/14, Prisoners of War, (N.O.I.C. Port Sudan, 0920Z/14.)

FALMOUTH. — Bombay departure 1200Z/14, for Khor, Kuwai. (S.O.(I) Bombay 1202Z/14.)

4 ships required in Medn. — Re C. in C. E.I. 1028/3, and your 0915/5th. Does BARJORA replace SUISANG or is she additional? (D. of S.T. 2130/14, to P.S.T.O. India.)

Assab. bombed. — Daily Ops. Summ. for 24 hours ending 1500 G.M.T. 14/2. Bombing 2 Blenheim I's 2000 lbs. Assab. (A.H.Q. Aden 2146/14.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

China.

Minefield Off Johore.	Your 0801Z/17. Proposed area not concurred in. Declaration (text) to be broadcast at 1300 G.M.T/16. Instructions re minelaying. (Hd. of M., 0237/14, to C. in C. China.) See Operations Volume.
Shipping.	My 0323/12 and your 1133/12, presume you will arrange any necessary diversion of British and Allied ships en route for Japanese controlled waters from distant ports. (C. in C. China 0513Z/14 to Adty.)
Situation.	My 0311/13. U.S.A. Ambassador Tokio states Germany increasing pressure on Japan. Prince Konoye Premier reported ill. Japanese Consul General Singapore received instructions 6/2, to prepare for "emergency." M.B.K. Head Office Tokio has warned all South Seas Branches crisis coming April or May. Families of Singapore Staff ordered to return to Japan at an early date. Singapore office to cease all new business and sell stocks. (C.O.I.S Singapore 0707/14.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FOREIGN STATIONS.

America & West Indies.

DIOMEDE to patrol off Callao.

My 1002/11. In view of Japanese situation it is desirable that you should move to the Northward. On leaving Valparaiso you should contact SAN ADOLFO and then proceed to establish patrol off Callao. N.C.S.O. Valparaiso pass to H.M.S.DIOMEDE. (C. in C. A.W.I 1001/14 to DIOMEDE.)

CORDELIA. Sabotage. suspected.

(M.F.A.) reports probable Sabotage, while in Queen Dock, Glasgow. (B.S.N.O. Curacao, 1312/14.)

WASHINGTON EXPRESS. Report of Suspicious Ship..

On arrival Balbao reports at 0100/8, in 010° N, 087° W, cargo ship estimated 5000 tons two masted one funnel believed flush deck forward passed on opposite course. Master suspicious owing to alteration first toward then away. Stranger fired three signal lights white turning red in flight also flashed morse continuously ending signal N.C. once. No W/T heard. (S.O.(1) Kingston Jamaica 1556/14.)

Australia.

Mines Swept.

Q.F.30. Mines have been swept up in position 033° 17' 30" S. 151° 47' E. (A.C.N.B. 1058/14.) (NIBLIN was sunk in this vicinity on 5/12/1940, D.S.529)

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

GERMAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

NORDERNEY MONBALDO.	Para. Reports NORDERNEY is maintaining steam. Italian ship MONBALDO has drawn fires and discharged 100 tons pitch. Cargo still arriving to German firms who are purchasing rubber above market prices.(S.O.(I) Monte Video 1454z/14.)
BELLONA.	Valencia 14/2. 1341 departure BELLONA for Marseilles. (S.O.I. Gib., 2323/14.)

ITALIAN MERCHANT SHIPS.

MONBALDO.	See German Merchant Ships.
GUISEPPINA GHIRARDI.	Arrived fron Constanza, with cargo 5000 tons benzine for Germany. (Varna 1129/14.)
DERNA.	Arrival 14/2, DERNA from Genoa. (Barcelona, 1626/14.)
CAPO LENA.	Arrived here 14/2. (Bilbao 1905/14.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 41.
Friday.

War Diary.

FRENCH MERCHANT SHIPS.

SONTAY. Your 2103/31/1. Consider that if Naval and Military fit personnel remain on board ship should be escorted. (C. in C. S.A. 1305N/14 to Admty.)

Your 1540/9/12 and 2103/31/1, (re passengers from SONTAY being tran-shipped to OXFORDSHIRE) H.M.H.S.VASNA espected to arrive Freetown. Request information whether OXFORDSHIRE should proceed to Capetown on relief as previously arranged. (C. in C. S.A,1309N/14, to Admty.)

ERDAN. Intercepted letter states ERIDAN left Marseilles 22/1, for Saigon. (C. in C.A.W.) 1833/14.)

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked.

ARTHUR F. CORWIN.

(torpedoed 13/2.)

MARAUDER and ST. OLAVES are on the way to you. Continue to search for survivors and stragglers. (from H.X.106.) (C. in C. W.A. 0029/14, to LA MALOUINE.)

Departure MARAUDER and ST. OLAVES in accordance with your 1709/13.(N.O.I.C. Aultbea, 0355/14, to F.O.I.C. Greenock.)

1. The torpedoing of ARTHUR F. CORWIN, coupled with recent reports of sightings, suggests strong probability that serious threat from U boats will develop in this area, an area which is vital not only because of the congestion of shipping but also because it covers the route constantly used by The Fleet.

2. I cannot stress too strongly the need for effective action from the start and conditions appear very suitable for the operation of a hunting group, with air reconnaissance.

3. I will give every assistance I can, although at present, this is likely to be limited to destroyers carrying out A/S sweeps on passage to and from other commitments. (C. in C. H.F. 1154/14 to C. in C. W.A.) Your 0029/14, My position 060° 26' N, 016° 30' W, CORWIN gone, no survivors searching to 20 miles leeward indication, unlikely left ship. Sweeping eastward for stragglers into moderate gale.(LA MALOUINE 1501/14. to MALCOLM etc.).

Unknown Ship.

Following has been read, SSSS 55 16 N. 18, 5, Position doubtful, signal ceased. (Valentia, 0240/14.)(C. in C. W.A.,0403/14, to CALDWELL, TULIP, FLEUR DE LYS.)

/W.B.WALKER.....

MOST SECRET.

14. 2. 1941.
Friday.

War Diary.

U-BOAT CAMPAIGN.

Ships Attacked. (Contd.).

W.B.WALKER.
(torpedoed 29/1.)

Aircraft report W.B WALKER in position 58° 15' N. 07° 01' W. at 1445/13. (F.O.I.C. Greenock, 0701/14, to SALVONIA, SOUTHERN PRIDE, Amended 1131/14.)

Cancel all previous signals. MARAUDER and ST. OLAVES are to proceed forthwith to assistance of stern half of W.B. WALKER, reported in 58° 15' N. 09° 01 W. at 1445/13. Acknowledge. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1945/14, to MARAUDER, ST. OLAVES.)

MARON.
O.B.V.

Sighted two torpedoes passing ahead at 1745 G.M.T. position 036° 41' N, 020° 24' W. (MARON 1830/14.)

MARON reports 2 torpedoes ahead 1845/14, in 036° 41' N, 020° 42' W.(F.O.C.N.A.2216A/14. (Note different longitude from MARON'S Signal.)

S/M's. Reported.

0707. By D/F at 0707/14, position of Italian U-Boat approx. 45° 30' N, 4° W. This unit is one of the three referred to in Adty's., 1244/13, as being in about 45° N, 10° W(D.D.I.C. 0755/14.)

1920. 45.30 N, 2.30 W, indefinite position of Italian U/B. (D.S.529.).

Estimated U/B. dispositions.

German - 1 40 miles of 60° 20' N. 16° W. may move slowly west. 1 60 miles of 58° N. 24° W. 1 60 miles of 56° 30' N. 22° W. 1 30 miles of 55° 16' N. 18° 50' W. 1 60 miles of 52° 30' N. 22° 30' W. Possibly 1 90 miles of 49° 30' N. 31° 30' W. 1 about 47° N. 5° W. homeward bound. 1 off Finisterre. 1 40 miles of 40° N, 18° W. may be bound north eastward.

Italian - No further evidence that 3 U/Bs. are trying to intercept HG.53. 1 approaching Gironde. 2. May be in Western Area of Bay of Biscay. 1 N.W. Approaches. (D.D.I.C. 1313/14.)

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Protection of Ocean Convoys.

The policy to be adopted for the protection of ocean convoys against surface raiders was announced by the Admiralty today. Owing to the scarcity of tonnage Commanders in Chief abroad have been informed that it is important that any captured enemy shipping should be got into our service as rapidly as possible.

Home Commands.

Photographic air Reconnaissance 15/2 revealed a HIPPER cruiser again in Dry Dock at Brest.

British Air Activity.

Six Blenheims of Coastal Command bombed barges and docks at Ostend last night, St. Nazaire was bombed by 4 Beauforts.

Three offensive sorties were sent to attack a convoy of 20 merchant vessels of 5000 and 15000 tons steering 340° 40 miles 224° Horns Reef at 1505, but bad visibility prevented the attack being carried out.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

Enemy Air Activity.

There were one or two attacks on shipping today, but no damage is reported so far.

Mining.

Enemy Minelaying.

Enemy aircraft estimated to number 40, carried out minelaying operations in the Humber and Wash areas last night. 35 mines were exploded off Spurn Point today.

Mines were also exploded in Bristol Channel Harwich area, off Milford Haven, Plymouth, and Liverpool.

Exmouth Approaches, Torbay, Aberdeen Tyne and Blyth were closed.

Preston was reopened this evening.

British Minelaying.

10 Hampdens laid mines in the Verdon (Gironde) area last night.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

North Atlantic.

A southwesterly gale is blowing at Gibraltar. The sailing of RESOLUTION for U.K. has been held up since yesterday and a Sunderland due at Gibraltar at 1000 today force landed in Portugal. All flying at Gibraltar was cancelled today owing to bad weather.

Mediterranean.

ROVER today reported that she had sucessfully attacked a Tanker off the South Coast of Italy.

Benghazi was heavily and indiscriminately bombed before dawn today.

Arrangements for the reinforcement of minesweeping forces in the Mediterranean are given in Admty. 0116/15 to C.in C. Med., E.I. China, etc.

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

SITUATION REPORT.

China.

Aircraft have been despatched from India to the Far East.

Preliminary arrangements are being made in respect of signalling procedure between the British and U.S. Naval Forces.

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MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

25.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Policy.

KEPPEL.
Transfer to W.A.Command.

Your 1506/14 Concur.
(C.in C. H.F. 0307/15).

Escorts for Ocean Convoys.

Cancel my 1040/14. Amendment of policy.
(1st S.L. 1214/15 and 1714/15).
See Operations Volume.

Admty. 1214/15. Dispcsition of S/M Flotillas will be as follows.
(F.O.S. 1459/15).
See Operations Volume.

Decision.
(A.C.H.S.(H) 1232/15).
See Operations Volure.

Troops for Reykjavik.

Request anticipated dates of sailing of A.M.C.s from Clyde to Reykjavik during March and April and the maximum number of troops that can be carried in each ship.
(D.O.D.(H) 1457/15 to F.O.C.N.P.)

Aberdeen.

My 1241/2. No further work can be taken in hand at Aberdeen before end of this month.
(N.O.I.C. Aberdeen 1532/15).

PRIMULA
SNAPDRAGON
ERICA
DELPHINIUM.

2. (L.L.Corvettes). Are required for service in the Mediterranean.

To be fitted for tropical service at highest priority.
(A.C.H.S.(H) 1747/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.8.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Defence of United Kingdom.

DELUGE. At 1130/15.
(D.C.1137/15).
At 2330/15.
(D.C.2359/15).

Brough of Burray R.D.F. Station. A.C.O.S. 1802/11. Work proceeding as rapidly as circumstances permit.
(Air Ministry 1258/15 to Admty).

Demonstration of Flares. A.O.C.in C. Coastal Command has requested a practical demonstration of flares identification at C.C. Stations. Request permission to comply. It is not considered that the burning of these flares ashore should be connected with their true purpose if observed by unauthorised persons.
(F.O.S. 1731/15 to Admty).

Orkneys. Defence Organisation. Your 1615/31. Chiefs of Staffs at their meeting 13/8 decided -
"the C.in C. Home Forces, should make the report on the defence requirements of the Island and the effect of finding any proposed reinforcements, and that he should work out, in consultation with A.C.O.S., a suggested chain of command which would place the Island under operational control of Home Forces, but would leave A.C.O.S. in local control as at present".

2. Request you will report arrangements made in due course.
(D. of L.D. 1807/15 to A.C.O.S.)

Campbeltown A/A Defences. In view of air raid on Campbeltown on 9/8 request the provision of A/A defences be treated as a matter of urgency.
(C.in C. W.A. 2319/15).

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements.

Transfer of A. and B. Class Destroyers.

C.in C. H.F's 1816/7, and Capt: D. Greenock's 2015/10. Propose transfer as follows. (R.A.D. 1115/15).

THUNDERBOLT SURCOUF

My 1549/14.

2. THUNDERBOLT is to sail for Halifax on 19/2 in company with SURCOUF and escort as far as 10° W. 3. Submarines are to proceed thence independently. Cin C. W.A. is requested to indicate route for THUNDERBOLT which should be well clear of that ordered for SURCOUF.
(F.O.S. 1129/15 to S.2.)

Your 1129/15. Route.

F.O.I.C. Greenock is requested to arrange escorts.
(C.in C. W.A. 1938/15 to F.O.S.)

PRINCE OF WALES. HOOD.

A.M. 1815/11. Programme of PRINCE OF WALES in A.S.C.B.S. 447/2 of 10/2 is being adhered to except as follows. Programme of HOOD is as follows:
(A.S. Rosyth, 1230/15).

Northern Patrol.

Trawler Lines, tonight. 5 Trawlers.
(A.C.C.S. 1559/15).

S/M's.

Positions at 0300/16 and movements for following 24 hours.
(F.O.S. 1561/15).

REPULSE HOOD.

My 1232/16. Request you will sail REPULSE for Rosyth so as to arrive 18/2 for quick docking on 19/2.

2. HOOD is to be undocked if necessary and resulting delay in her completion accepted.

3. On completion of docking REPULSE is to be sailed for Clyde to fuel and to sail on 28/2 as ocean escort to FURIOUS and a transport.

4. Ship is to complete with stores for

/foreign

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

REPULSE HOOD. (Contd.)	foreign service. (Controller, 1745/15 to C.in C. H.F.)
SANDHURST.	In tow of tug WATERMEYER sailed for Rosyth in F.N.S. (F.O.I.C. Tyne, 1820/15).
UNBEATEN.	My 1441/14. Sailed. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1830/15). Chaser 43 will R/V with you at N one Buoy 0800/16. (S.S. 1855/15 to UNBEATEN).
TEVIOT BANK.	Arrival 1855/15. (F.O. Humber, 1935/15).
D.20.	Sailed D.20 in INTREPID with ICARUS IMPULSIVE for Plymouth. E.T.A. 0900/18. (R.A.D. H.F. 2115/15).
CILICIA.	Sailed. E.T.A. Clyde boom, 0600/16. (F.O.I.C. Belfast 2120/15).
S.S. STRATHNAVER FURIOUS ALCANTARA REPULSE.	Prospective movements. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2144/15). See Operations Volume.
S.S. BATORY FORTH RAMILLIES.	Pospective movements. (A.C.N.S.(H) 2249/15). See Operations Volume

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Movements. (Contd.)

MAURITIUS. — Admty's. 1335/11 para (vi). Request confirmation that MAURITIUS will be relieved in latitude of Azores. If this is known she can she can use a higher speed when in S/M waters.
(C.in C. H.F. 2254/15 to Admty).

REPLUSE. — Your 1745/15.

As REPLUSE has not refitted for 23 months every extra day she can be given at Rosyth will be a great advantage. Subject to concurrence of C.in C. Rosyth intended to sail REPLUSE to arrive Rosyth 17/2.
(C.in C. H.F. 2309/15).

Operations.

P.V.1.
P.V.3.
Cancelled. — Operations P.V.One and P.V.Three are cancelled Orders for two new operations to be known as Q.A. and Q.B. will be issued shortly.
Cancel my 2200/16/12 and 2252/16/12.
(C.in C. Nore, 0945/15).
Cancel REF.7 and REF.8.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1747/15 to R.E.Force No.72).

Air Rescue Patrol off Dungeness. — A daily Air Sea Rescue Patrol of two M/LS has been established one mile off Dungeness and will be maintained unless weather conditions are too bad. For the present M/LS leave Newhaven at 0700 and return at 2200.
(V.A.Dover, 1036/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Operations. (Contd.)

Patrol off Aldeburgh.

1st. M.L. Flotilla of 3 boats will sail from Yarmouth 15/2 to 052° 11'N., 002° 15'E. arriving before dark. They will patrol on a line 050° and 230° for a distance 5 miles on each side of this position returning to Yarmouth at daylight.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1502/15 to EGLINTON, QUORN.)

Channel Patrol.

VANSITTART TYNEDALE leave Needles 1830/15 to patrol southward of group of merchant vessels which leaves Dartmouth 1820/15 arrives Needles 0830/16 routed North of QZX 267 and 180 degrees Portland Bill 4'.

Destroyers arrive Needles 0745/16.
(C.in C. Portsmouth 1533/15).

O Patrol.

Do not enter Harwich. EGLINTON and QUORN proceed on O patrol.
(D.16 1623/15 to EGLINTON).

Exercise PURGE.

Being carried out tonight between harbour entrance and south Shipwash.
(N.O.I.C. Harwich, 1710/15 to EGLINTON).

British Air Activity.

Air Search.

One Sunderland from Sullom Voe searching vicinity 60° 26'N., 16° 30'W. 1030 to 1430 today.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0720/15).

MOST SECRET.

18.2.1941.
Saturday.

WAR DIARY.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

Patrols. Patrol UNSF is being flown today.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 0934/15).

My 2116/14. Second Sortie of Fugle will not be flown owing to weather.
(C.in C. Rosyth, 1150/15 to NIGERIA, ARETHUSA).

Your 1448/14. Cross over patrol between positions 062° 27'N., 006° 09'W., 062° 32'N., 005° 28'W., 063° 43'N., 006° 54'W., 065° 48'N 006° 09'W., will be flown by Sunderland from 0800/17 until 1500/17.

Aircraft will make landfall at N.E. extremity of Faroes at 90 minute intervals.
(C.in C. Rosyth 1310/15 to C.in C. H.F.)

Engagement of A/C by A/A Guns. F.O. Humber's 2353/10, my 1120/11 and F.O. Humber's 2345/14. Can any improvement in this dangerous situation may be hoped for? Two further letters bearing on this subject from F.O. Humber and F.O. Yarmouth respectively are being forwarded to Admty by courier today.
(C.in C. Nore, 1015/15 to Admty).
Your 1120/11 and 1015/15. Matter is under consideration by Chiefs of Staff.
(A.C.N.S.(H) 2310/15 to C.in C. Nore).

801 Squadron. My 1315/14/2. On arrival at St. Merryn 801 Squadron is to be placed under the operational control of C.in C. Coastal Command who is requested to allow training to continue as far as possible.
(5th S.L. 1150/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

British Air Activity. (Contd.)

S.N.7.B. A/S Air Escort. — Your 0935/12. Weather permitting arrangements for A/S Air Escort during daylight hours as follows aircraft being relieved periodically. On 16/2 by one Whitley, 17/2 by one Sunderland, on 18/2 by one Hudson or Whitley. (C.in C. Rosyth, 1410/15 to R.A.M.L.)

Enemy Air Activity.

Convoys HATCH and F.N.7. — Fighters are being sent to Convoys Hatch (WHITSHED and TEVIOT BANK) and Radio (F.N.7). (Rosyth 0013/15).

TEVIOT BANK. (Bombed 14/2). — My 0042/15. Believe only sustained minor damage, but inadvisable to steam more than 8 knots owing to cracked bearing. (TEVIOT BANK, 0044/15).

Lowestoft bombed. — Single enemy plane dropped about four H.E. bombs on Lowestoft. No naval casualties or damage.

B. Three civilian casualties. (N.O.I.C. Lowestoft 0250/15).

Unknown Ship. — AAAA. Automatic signal from unknown ship bearing approx. 151° . (Wick Radio 1137/15).

CURACOA. — One aircraft shadowing course 200 position 56° 39'N., 2° 10'W. (CURACOA 1146/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

16.2.1941.
Saturday.

KEITH COMMAND.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

Convoy F.S. Odd.	One Aircraft in 53° 35'N., 00 55'E. (Convoy BOOTY 1147/15). M.1147 JU 88 chased away by Anson to S.W. when out of range of WOLFHOUND. (Convoy BOOTY 1156/15). Fighter protection is being sent. (1159/15).
ELIZABETH MARIE. (French Trawler).	Arrived. OTTAWA with 25 survivors from French ship ELIZABETH MARIE. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 1230/15). Sunk in approx. 54° 58'N., 12° 30'W. in convoy S.C.21. (B.M.S.E.305).
C.in C. Nore, 0817/15.	This signal was at first circulated as 2151/14, q.v.
Convoy F.N.Odd.	One enemy aircraft. Convoy Pilot, in 51° 46'N., 1° 28'E. (HASTINGS 1450/15). Intercept 1411 G.M.T. Help Pilot. (N.Foreland 1510/15). My 1512. 1 enemy aircraft circling overhead. No bombs dropped. (VORTIGERN 1514/15). Fighter aircraft has been sent to Convoy Pilot. (C.in C. Nore, 1516/15).
CAPE COMORIN. Convoy Attacked 14/2.	C.O. CAPE COMORIN reports:- 3 miles West of Longships Light at 1915/14 whilst escorting 4 ships in company with H.M.T. DERBY COUNTY, a single unidentified aircraft approached from S.W. When challenged replied correctly and disappeared over the land. Presumably the same aircraft returned 3 minutes later and when again challenged dropped 4 incendiary bombs astern of motor vessel DAVILA from about 4000 feet. An R/T call was made for help and acknowledged but no fighter protection was sent. Ends. (N.O.I.C. Dartmouth 1737/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Enemy Air Activity. (Contd.)

JASON. 3 bombs dropped without effect in 2 attacks. Weather conditions very poor. (JASON, 1850/15).

Search for Unknown Vessel. Your 1905/-. Continne search to southward of position given. (F.O.I.C. Greenock 2148/15 to SALVONIA, SOUTHERN PRIDE.)

Mining.

B.S.51. Operation is postponed. Am returning to Humber after near miss by torpedo or bomb. (TEVIOT BANK. 0042/15).

Exmouth. Approaches to Exmouth are closed owing to suspected minelaying. Ships are not to approach the coast within a radius of 5 miles from Start Point. (C.in C. W.A. 0312/15).

Torbay. Torbay is closed to shipping owing to suspected mine-laying. Ships are to keep to seaward of a line drawn 4 miles due North from a point 090° Barry Head 4 miles. (C.in C. W.A. 0316/15).

Z.M.E.17. Intend leaving Milford Haven at 1745 today, for Operation Z.M.E. 17 to lay at 2240 returning on completion about 0230/16. (PLOVER 1056/15).

North Norway. Varangerfjord North Norway. Olso notice states mines have been laid in an area limited by following points; Helsingfors please repeat to Petsamo. (N.A.Stockholm, 1117/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Start Point Area. — A danger area due to enemy mines exists within circle of radius 1½ miles about position 0500 25' 51" N., 0030 27' 45" W.
Cancel my 0316/15.
(C.in C. W.A. 1120/15).

Dover. — No routine sweeping carried out to 0800/15.
(V.A.Dover, 1156/15).

S.N.7.B. — My 1446/14 para. (iii) is cancelled.

Cover for operations is to be provided by C.S.18 in EDINBURGH and NIGERIA.

(ii) C.S.18 is to sail p.m. today and is to arrange to R/V in daylight 16th, with NIGERIA who is patrolling about a mid position 0320 30'N., 0160 W. with ARETHUSA in company.

(iii) ARETHUSA is to comply with my 1004/15.

(iv) Admiralty pass to H.Q.C.C.
(C.in C. H.F. 1220/15).
C.in C. H.F. 1220/15 1st M.S.L. will pass through 0600 05'N., 0040 54'W. steering 3400 11½ knots at 0930 tomorrow.
(R.A.M.L. 1533/15 to F.O.C. 18th C.S.)

S.N.68B. — Propose to sail p.m./22 and lay as follows: at 1230/24. Only three of 17th Div. Dest. will be available for this operation.
(R.A.M.L. 1726/15).
Departure Port Z.A. 1815/15 R.A.M.L. in SOUTHERN PRINCE PORT QUEBEC AGAMEMNON BRIGHTON LANCASTER ECHO CHARLESTON and SCOTT to carry out S.N.7.B. and 68A.
(TRELAWNEY 1617/15).

MOST SECRET.

WAR DIARY.

15.2.1941.
Saturday.

HOME COMMANDS.

Mining. (Contd.)

Bristol Channel.	At 1025 Accoustic mine exploded by S/A Mark Two 164 1.85 miles from Flatholm Light. (N.O.I.C. Swansea 1308/15).
Harwich Area.	Red mine detonated by L.L.Drifters at 0955 in 51° 56' 03" N. 01° 27' 36" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1348/15). Mine detonated by S.A.gear. At 1422/15 in 51° 56' 36" N., 01° 27' 26" E. (F.O.I.C. Harwich, 1651/15).
1st M/S Flotilla.	4 Ships of 1st M /S Flotilla anchored Ludan Bay. Intend weighing for operations at 0145 tomorrow. (S.O. 1st M/S F. 1547/15).
Milford Haven.	At 1014/15. One Green Mine detonated by sweeper in 059° St. Anns Head Light 14.3 cables. At 1016/15 One Red Mine detonated by Sweeper in 062° St. Anns Head Light 13.3 cables. (F.O.I.C. Milford Haven, 1619/15).
Preston.	Port re-opened. (F.O.I.C. Liverpool, 1840/15).
Plymouth.	Blue mine detonated 1005 266° Breakwater Light 8 cables. (C.in C. W.A. 1925/15).
P.W.5.	My 1544/14 report on P.W.4. Presence of Pillar Buoy may indicate diversion of traffic due to P.W.1. Propose therefore that P.W.5. takes place to the south westward of F.D.X.Y. 1030 if possible in 8 fathoms or less. This should make further diversion difficult. (C.in C. Nore, 2220/15).

War Diaries

1-2-41 to 8-4-41

cont on Reel K-4-B

ENDING OF

REEL K-3-B.

DOCUMENTS - PHOTOGRAPHED

War Diaries:—
1-1-41 to 31-1-41 on 1

1-2-41 to 8-4-41
con't on Reel K-4-B

ONI

DATE: April 11th, 1946.

MACH. NO. 475

PHOTOGRAPHED BY: J. Cunningham